

News Tidbits

>> On Tuesday, March 8 in London, a 60-year-old judge tackled his 34-year-old defendant, Paul Reid, to the ground when he tried to flee the courtroom. As the jury filed out, the defendant attempted to escape through the judge's door. The judge grabbed him, only to have him slip away again. As Reid ran for the door, the judge rugby-tackled him and knocked him to the floor. Reid, who was on trial as a sex-offender, denies that he was attempting to escape, although he pulled the same stunt successfully two years ago.

>> Human Sexuality is a generally thought of as an awkward and uncomfortable course kids have to take in high school as a requirement. This is apparently not the case at Northwestern University, where a psychology professor teaching the course staged a demonstration of a sex toy for his Human Sexuality classes. He did not make it a compulsory event, but over 100 students attended. The demonstration is being investigated by the Northwestern Administration.

>> When 30-year-old Zuria Ali went to collect rent from his tenants in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, he was not surprised that the renters had taken off. He was, however, surprised that they had taken everything with them, including the house, leaving only the concrete pillars behind. A neighbor reported that three men with a trailer had shown up, saying they were dismantling it for Ali. Ali, meanwhile, filed a police report that his house is "missing."

>> While it may seem like a modern problem, a new exhibit at the Library of Congress shows that weight loss has been at the forefront of American minds for a long time. The exhibit follows advertisements for weight loss products in United States history from the past 150 years. Some of the fads that show up are the weight-shedding properties of bile beans, easy listening music, "obesity soap" and bath salts that will "wash away your fat."



THIS GIRL IS DEFINITELY NOT SMILING ABOUT HER SCHOOL LUNCH

Food for Thought

By **B. KIM, II & BEVERLY NGUYEN, I**
NEWS EDITORS

"School lunch is disgusting. I don't want to eat 2009 foods," says a Boston Public School student. The words "school lunch" are more often heard in the same sentence as "gross" or "disgusting" than not. Despite the lack of praise, a great percentage of students continue to (wolf) down this food daily. Recently, however, it has been discovered that frozen food found in the freezers of four Boston Public Schools has been expired as far back as 2009. Beef and cheese were among the expired foods found by City Councilor John Connolly, who had been given a tip and inspected the freezers of four random Boston Public Schools with a camera in hand. Upon seeing the expiration dates, the city councilor says, "My heart sank. My instant reaction was I would not want any child in Boston to eat food that had been frozen for a year or two years or whatever the case may be."

At the city council meeting last Wednesday, Connolly addressed the issue at hand. According

to him, the food is within the standards set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture although expired, as frozen food "will always be safe but can lose nutrients over time". Likewise, a spokesman for the BPS states that the food is still considered safe as the federal guidelines describe the expiration dates as recommendations, not as requirements.

However, in the next couple of weeks, the city council plans to address the issue further; Connolly filed a public records inquiry for the school department to release all "expired food inventory" information. He is concerned for the many students as these meals are often their only source of sustenance throughout the day.

Many parents are also concerned for the well being of their children, as they expect them to receive meals that are "fresh, hot and nutritious." One concerned parent states, "I don't think that that's good, that's healthy at all and it's not in the best interest of our children."

This is also another concern of Connolly, who says the safety of the food is not questionable, as it does not appear to be contaminated.

Foods that are frozen for several years begin to lose their nutrition, and Connolly asks, "if you're giving food that's been frozen for two years, what justice are we doing for them?"

"Expiration" and "use-by" dates, as defined by the USDA, are dates that a manufacturer recommends a food to be consumed by in order to eat it at its best quality and nutrition. The "best if used by date" means that a food will still be wholesome even after the date indicated. The food service staff claims that the handwritten dates on the boxes indicate when they had received the food from a Wilmington warehouse. Matthew Wilder, spokesperson for Boston Public Schools, also says, "We follow USDA guidelines, which say that foods can be used passed the best used by best date as long as it's frozen properly." However, it is shown that those dates are written a while after the date of manufacturing on the box.

According to BPS, their cafeteria workers should be able to detect when food is spoiled, due to training. Nonetheless, the city council has decided to hold hearings to address the issue.

Steps Go Silent: Step Squad Breaks Ties with BLS

By **ANDY VO, I**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Friday, March 11, members of the Boston Latin School Step Squad made the decision to break ties with the school. As of 6:00 PM that Friday, the BLS Step Squad is no longer.

This development comes after many students—including stepers Leshemah Israel (I), Shemia Perry (I), Shantel Shepard (I) and Treajour Abrams (III)—received notice that they had accumulated

enough tardy detentions to put them at risk of censure. But as of that Friday afternoon, it was unclear whether they had been officially censured.

In any case, censure was the least of their concerns. The Step Squad had been preparing for the Youth Community Step Off, a step competition hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at the Madison Park Community Center in Roxbury.

According to stepper Barbara

Afogh (II), BLS rarely takes notice of their outside competitions. This case was different, however, because of a crackdown by Assistant Headmaster Karen Maund on students who have been neglecting to attend their tardy detentions. According to the student handbook, a censure will result in "[exclusion] from all extracurricular activities for a period of one week." Under these grounds, Ms. Maund threatened to pull the four aforementioned students out of the competition.

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Greatness on Ice

Overcoming setbacks and injuries, the Wolfpack achieve tremendous success this season

By **MIKE TOMASINI, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

"Pain Heals. Chicks dig scars. But glory lasts forever."

With that memorable Shane Falco line in mind, Boston Latin Hockey set out to own the ice this season. Attempting to be the best team Latin has seen in years, to surpass the tremendous success of last season and to go deep into the state tournament, the hockey team entered the season with a resolve rarely seen in Latin sports. With the season now behind us, there is no doubt that they left it all out there on the ice.

Last season ended bitterly for the Wolfpack. With tons of fans in the stands for the second round of the state tournament, the guys' team fought a bitterly contested bout against Winthrop. Though they played a great game, a lucky bounce for Winthrop gave them a 2-1 loss to end the season on a tough note. This season they sought to rebound, conquer the Dual County League and perform even better in the state tourney. That was anything but a sure bet, and the loss of captain and all-star Justin Evangelista did not make it any easier. As senior goalie Gabe Diop (I) said with his signature bravado, "It's tough. With Justin there, I felt good. No worries. But now . . . I don't know." Gabe Diop shaken? It could not be true.

And it was not. Despite all the worrying beforehand, the Wolfpack DOMINATED. I am not mincing words when I say that. Out of the twenty games the boys played, they lost only three times. It was a season filled with snipes, dangles and celis (hockey term for celebration). You cannot talk about celis without mention of living legend Conal Lynch (II), the junior captain who is so much better than every other player that the game changes literally every time he steps onto the ice.

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NEWS

Uprising Occurs in Libya

By **KENNETH CRUZ, IV**
STAFF WRITER

Following the “revolution” in Egypt, the international spotlight has been placed on the uprising in Libya against Prime Minister Muammar al-Gaddafi. Over fifteen African and Middle Eastern countries have held protests against their heads of state. The riots in Libya and Egypt, however, have gained special attention because of foreign interest on oil and the safety of citizens who are staying abroad from other countries. Libya has had strong investments made by the United States on crude oil, and for years, foreigners have overlooked the internal oppression the country has faced. Here in the U.S., we are affected by the rising prices of oil

and produce. The price of produce has increased due to the snowy winter and the expensive gasoline used by trucks to transport the everyday foods. Only now has Libya's political struggle sparked the American interest because of the effect on local gasoline prices.

The unrest started on February 15, when 500 to 600 protesters showed up at the police headquarters in Benghazi after the arrest of popular human rights activist Fathi Terbil. From there on, mercenaries from Chad were paid 5,000 Dinars (about \$4,065 US dollars) to "tame" the protesters throughout the country during the next week. It was also reported that a military helicopter had shot the protesters in Benghazi after the first five days. Two senior air force pilots, however, defied orders to bomb protesters and instead,

flew to Malta in order to request political asylum. It was rumored among the media that these two pilots were granted it as well.

By February 23, the second largest city of Libya, Benghazi, was taken over by the opposition. Their goal is to take over Tripoli, the country's capitol, overthrowing Gaddafi and dismantling the government. Libya is the world's longest living autocracy, which means that it has only one leader, Minister Gaddafi, who has absolute power over the actions of the nation.

On February 23, President Obama released a statement claiming that, "The suffering and bloodshed is outrageous, and it is unacceptable. So are threats and orders to shoot peaceful protesters." He also explained that he had not been able to release a statement until the majority of the American citizens within the country were safely on the evacuation ferry, which had been heading towards the small Mediterranean island of Malta.

It is not just Americans who have left the country. Great Britain, Russia and India have also made efforts to evacuate their citizens from the mass chaos. It was also last reported that every day there are over 4,000 people crossing the border between Libya into Tunisia. The refugees include Tunisians, Turks, Egyptians and even Libyans themselves.

Gaddafi's youngest son, Saif Al-Arab, had joined the protesters in Benghazi and began the rumor that his father might have fled to Latin America, but it was broadcasted on television that Gaddafi had fled to Venezuela, where strong diplomatic

relations were established with long time president Hugo Chavez. These rumors were terminated when he finally appeared on Libyan television. There is also an internet revolution, where many protesters are posting videos and commentaries during street altercations, just as the protesters in Iran, Tunisia and Egypt had done.

Although the official flag of Libya is green, many of the rioters are using another flag during demonstrations—one that was used during the country's old monarchy. In 1951, Libya had just received independence from Italy, and the tricolor flag with a star and crescent was thought to have represented freedom, the blood of the people, Islam and prosperity. A makeshift version of this flag is used by protesters today, since the original is too rare to reproduce.

With the ongoing bloodshed throughout towns and cities across the nation, Gaddafi has also made some bold comments on television. It was explained that Gaddafi would not back down nor give up the nation to protesters who "run television stations belonging to dogs." Much foreign news has been following the unrest since the beginning, especially Al Jazeera, which has held live broadcasts from the streets, where a few reporters were even beaten by the police.

Every day, more and more blood is being shed on what protesters call "the honor of defending the homeland." The rest of the world is watching how the uprising will end, whether Gaddafi will resign and another member of his family will take control or whether the citizens will choose their next leader.



CITIZENS OF LIBYA PROTESTING AGAINST AL-GADDAFI

Wisconsin Bill

By **WINNIE ZHANG, II**
STAFF WRITER

Madison, Wisconsin has been a hotbed of activism ever since Republican Governor Scott Walker proposed an anti-union bill on February 11. If passed, the bill requires that state workers increase contributions to their own pensions and health insurance as well as limit their collective bargaining rights in an effort to close the state's 137 million dollar deficit.

In the days and weeks following the announcement, thousands of public-sector union members, including teachers, police officers and firefighters, assembled in Wisconsin's state capitol building. They were there to protest the bill, with some even remaining overnight. Many schools have closed due to lack of teachers being present. The capitol has remained packed as local and out-of-state supporters flood in and the rallies continue. They have also been joined by private-sector unions as a sign of solidarity. They fear they may suffer similar losses should this bill pass. “We are supporting the people in Wisconsin and other people in this country that are out to stand against those who want to take away collective bargaining,” said Steve Harney, vice president and director of operations at Teamsters Local No.14.

Wisconsin's 14 Democratic state senators, however, have been trying to ensure that this bill does not pass. On February 17, they set off to Illinois to prevent the quorum needed to pass the legislation. Governor Walker had pressed for their return. “Come back to the state capitol,” he said, “If you want to participate in democracy, democracy happens when you are in the arena.” The senators

have insisted that they will only return if collective bargaining is not at risk.

Wisconsin union workers have also received support from states across the country. Many analysts believe that the labor protests occurring there are a sign of things to come in America, as many states are tackling the problem of budget deficits. Ohio and Indiana are facing similar problems as those in Wisconsin and are considering legislation like the one being proposed there.

Nonetheless, there are states that are choosing to address their budget issues without stripping collective bargaining rights. Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber wants public employees to contribute more towards their health benefits and pensions. In Delaware, Governor Jack Markell proposed an eight percent pay-cut for state employees. In an op-ed piece, he wrote, “It's better for our state when unions have the right to speak out and to have a place at the table.”

President Barack Obama has also sided with the workers saying, “Some of what I've heard coming out of Wisconsin, where you're just making it harder for public employees to collectively bargain generally seems more like an assault on unions.”

As the situation in Wisconsin continues to unravel, the rest of the country is closely following the issue, as its outcome will have major repercussions for the nation as a whole. According to Steve Meyer, a professor of labor history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Wisconsin has become ground zero for the process of pushing back against unions. People are waiting to see what happens here. That's why the labor movement has become so deeply involved trying to stop this process.”

STEPS GO SILENT: STEP SQUAD BREAKS TIES WITH BLS

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Though Assistant Headmaster Malcolm Flynn argued that the Step Squad could simply step without them, the Step Squad refused, as they saw these girls as integral to their chances of success. Stepper Treajour Abrams says that the girls tried to reason with Mr. Flynn, saying that the step-off was an outside event and that the squad could step as a group of friends, under a different name, as not to break any BLS rules.

Regardless, as both the administration and the steppers interviewed verify, BLS' position came to this: If the Step Squad were to compete against the administration's wishes, BLS Step Squad would be no more.

Citing a lack of appreciation, the Step Squad chose this option. Treajour

for both 2nd and 3rd term, he was still able to play basketball games for the school, and played in both the state tournament and the Marshfield Tournament. His fellow teammate Khaleel Abdul-Jabbaar (I) tells us that he, likewise, was not barred from playing despite his censure last term.

This controversy also raises the issue of reforming the tardy policy. Many students found themselves unaware of the accumulation of detentions that led to their eventual censure, and stepper Shantel Shepard (I) also adds that some records are faulty: she cites a meeting with Ms. Maund in which three different computers listed her as having 16, 17, and 20 tardy detentions.

As for the fallout of this event, the Step Squad refuses to step for any more BLS events this year. They will now practice and perform entirely outside of BLS. And if the dis-



IT COULD BE A WHILE BEFORE THE STEP SQUAD PERFORMS ON THIS STAGE AGAIN

tells the Argo, “[The administration] didn't pay for us to be in [the step off], they didn't book it for us, and they didn't buy our uniforms. They have never cared what Step Squad does except when they need us.” Captain Shemia Perry also cites discrimination under the current censure policy. Basketball player Tosin Ajewole (I) admits to the Argo that, despite owing 24 tardies and despite having censures

agreement is not mended before next Thanksgiving, it is unlikely that the Step Squad will perform at the 2012 Pep Rally.

A message to members of the Step Squad states the following: “We are not listed in the agenda book under a BLS Sport or Club. Therefore: We do not belong to BLS.” And after Friday's dramatic events, it seems unclear whether they ever will.

NEWS

NPR Blues

BY ALEC MACNEIL, II
STAFF WRITER

In the past six months, National Public Radio (NPR) has been under almost constant fire from Republicans, who are seeking to cut spending by stripping the station's federal funding. Democrats have been fighting as vigorously for federal funding of public broadcasting as Republicans have been fighting against it. Meanwhile, President Obama has laid out a plan to increase the funding by six million dollars, leading to a total of 451 million dollars in 2012. Such an endeavor, however, seems to have failed, as on February 19, the House of Congress passed a bill that cuts all financing of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by the year 2013.

NPR's tumultuous public relations woes started back in September, when conservative commentator Juan Williams gave some disparaging and, quite frankly, racist remarks about Muslims on Fox News. Williams said on television that he feels afraid when confronted with a Muslim on an airplane. Such comments were deemed quite contradictory to what the then-acting Chief Executive Vivian Schiller articulated NPR stood for. As such, Williams was fired, but the remarks he made while still employed had already done their damage to the station's reputation.

More recently, there was news of another employee making offensive remarks. On March 7, a video was released, displaying a Chief Fundraising Executive, Ron Schiller (no relation to former Chief Executive Vivian Schiller), defining the Tea Party as, "middle America, gun-toting racists." The video itself was the product of an elaborate sting operation, orchestrated by conservative filmmaker James O'Keefe, who has also released videos embarrassing liberal organizations such as

Planned Parenthood and Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). O'Keefe's plan involved having friends of his pose as members of the Islamic Brotherhood who had founded an organization, called the Muslim Education Action Center Trust, and even created a website for the fake organization. O'Keefe then had his friends lure Ron Schiller into believing that they intended to donate five million dollars to NPR, and being Chief Fundraising Executive, Schiller could not pass up the opportunity. Once Schiller had agreed to meet at a cafe, O'Keefe set up a hidden camera near their table, to record Schiller's ultimately offensive responses to the prompting of O'Keefe's provocateurs. Schiller began to inform the men that his statements were in fact his own personal opinion. Nevertheless, following the video's release, he admitted that he had unwittingly besmirched his own and NPR's reputation. Consequently, he said that he will no longer follow through with his original plans to leave NPR for the Aspen Institute, nonprofit think-tank, as he now believes it is out of the Institute's best interests for him to work there. During the video, he also went on to say that NPR could survive without federal funding, and as soon as the video was released, Republicans used it as an admission that NPR did not need the funding, and that



FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE VIVIAN SCHILLER

it could be cut. Vivian Schiller, however, claimed that such a statement was not the reality of the situation, as if the funding was cut, several NPR locations would have to close, and the entire station would suffer as a whole. Regardless of a public apology for his words, Ron Schiller was put on administrative leave 12 hours after the video was first revealed, as his comments had further hurt NPR, which was still recovering from the damage done by Juan Williams.

O'Keefe claims that he specifically targeted NPR because one of his friends, who ultimately posed as a prospective donor to Ron Schiller, was deeply offended by the comments made by Juan Williams earlier in September. Therefore, O'Keefe set out to try to expose any other questionable employees of NPR, and Schiller happened to fall into his sight.

As if things could not have possibly gotten any worse for the radio station, Vivian Schiller officially resigned from her position as Chief Executive as of Wednesday, March 9. She had been respected as a great leader for NPR, and such a loss can only worsen the already troubling state of affairs the station has gotten itself into. Schiller resigned due in no small part to the video of Ron Schiller as well as the Juan Williams incident, as they proved too significant a distraction for her to simultaneously handle and move the station forward. Currently, the acting Chief Executive is Joyce Slocum, Senior Vice President for legal affairs and general counsel, and will remain as such until a committee is able to locate a suitable replacement for Schiller.

8.9 Earthquake Devastates Japan

BY CARLOS ROJAS, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Armageddon may be closer than we expect. Amidst the countless revolutions scorching Northern Africa, the sudden and unexplained deaths of thousands of birds and frogs in the UK, the pollution, famine and poverty that plagues the 21st century, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 8.9 struck the Pacific Ocean 81 miles off of Sendai, Honshu, Japan on Friday, March 11 at approximately 12:46 AM (EST). The earthquake is the world's 5th largest since the year 1900 and the most powerful earthquake to ever hit Japan. In addition to causing severe damage to buildings, power plants and oil refineries, triggering landslides and widespread power outages throughout Northern Japan, the earthquake set off a massive tsunami that rushed into Japan and swept across the Pacific Ocean at a speed of 500 mph.

According to Tohoku Electric, approximately 4.4 million households were left in the dark as much of the power supply to major cities and towns, including Sendai, Miyagi and Tokyo was cut off. Major airports including the Narita Airport and the Sendai Airport, which suffered severe flooding, were closed and public transport came to a screeching halt. Residents of Fukushima were evacuated after the level of radiation in Fukushima was estimated to be eight times higher than the allowable level. Officials say that the radioactivity is being blown "out to sea" by the winds, although the extent of radioactivity being released and the conse-

quences are unpredictable at the moment. In addition, more than 80 fires have ravaged oil refineries, countless homes and public buildings. The earthquake will cause tens of billions of dollars in damage, estimates David Applegate, a senior science adviser for earthquake and geologic hazards for the U.S Geological Survey.

Only a few minutes after the earthquake's impact was felt, the first wave of the tsunami, a 33 foot wall of water, flooded the town of Sendai. The tsunami washed away hundreds of thousands of homes, flooded public buildings, including the Sendai Airport from which planes were reportedly carried by the water, and killed hundreds of residents. It is predicted that the damage done by the tsunami may be far more destructive than the actual earthquake. Countless cities and towns, including Yamada, Rikuzentakata, Miyako, Onagawa and Minamisanriku were destroyed by the tsunami. Although Japan is known for heavily enforcing building codes and safety regulations, the disaster has left an estimated 1597 persons in Japan dead, 1481 missing and 1923 injured, according to Japan's National Police Agency. Actual numbers may be much higher.

Soon after the tsunami hit Japan, a warning was issued across North and South America. Although many of these warnings were later lifted, thousands of people were evacuated from coastal areas in the states of California, Oregon and Washington. In Hawaii, the damage to yachts, residential and commercial property was reported and several floating houses were sighted, although damage was

labeled as "minimal," by the Associated Press. No one was killed or injured.

The story was dramatically different in Crescent City, California. The city's harbor was completely destroyed; as many as three dozen boats and yachts were severely damaged, and docks were crushed by the staggering waves. Oregon reported major swelling and vigorous coastal activity. No casualties were announced, although one man is feared dead in Curry County, OR.

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami are predicted to deal serious blows to Japan's delicate economy. Although the financial repercussions are unknown and cannot be accurately predicted, economist Nouriel Roubini says the disaster comes at the "worst time." Japan will have to spend heavily to rebuild the country's infrastructure and "The disaster may add a tremendous burden to the already ailing economy," according to Roubini. Many of the major oil refineries in Japan were closed, causing a plunge in the price of oil worldwide. Titans of the Auto industry, mainly Honda, Toyota and Nissan, also halted production at major plants. On the bright side? The earthquake dealt its biggest blow to northern Japan, as it is considered an economically less important region. Economists say the effects of the 2011 earthquake will be far less severe than those of the Kobe Earthquake of 1995.

As global citizens wait in anticipation, they are left to wonder: What happens next? Looking back, many question whether scientists could have predicted the disaster and prevented the amount of damage it caused. In a world of hyper-commu-

nication and advanced technology, it is easy to misunderstand and overestimate the nascent field of seismology and the recent development of earthquake monitoring systems. Although the Earthquake Early Warning system, connected to about 1,000 seismometers in and around Japan, was able to send out warnings of an impending earthquake, saving countless lives, the ability to accurately forecast an earthquake and its location days before, and even hours before, has yet to be mastered. The earthquake is sure to put pressure on research to develop even faster and more accurate detection technology.

The Internet has allowed for the growth of a multinational network of people sharing real time photos, videos and reports. The Web has garnered immense interest and support from the international community, as blogs like the Washington Post Blog and Al Jazeera's Live Blog continue to attract thousands of followers. Google Person Finder, a revolutionary internet tool which had previously been used for the Haitian and Chilean relief efforts, is currently being used to post missing and found persons in Japan. Thousands of people and companies, from President Barack Obama to Paris Hilton and Google, have pledged financial support, in addition to the thousands of volunteers preparing for the task ahead. If you would like to donate to the relief effort in Japan, please visit www.redcross.org, www.americares.org, or www.globalgiving.org, or text the message "RED CROSS" to the number 90999 to donate #10. Standard messaging fees apply.

IBM Supercomputer Wins Jeopardy! Match

By **MYLES McDONOUGH, I**
STAFF WRITER

In 2007, Dr. David Ferrucci, head of the Semantic Analysis and Integration Department at International Business Machines (IBM) and his team set out to create a computer with the ability to compete in and win a Jeopardy! match. Four years later, they succeeded when their computer named "Watson" soundly defeated former champions Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings. Jennings is the record holder for the longest winning streak in Jeopardy! history.

On February 14, 15 and 16, Watson competed against Rutter and Jennings in the "IBM Jeopardy! Challenge." The computer did, however, make several notable mistakes, such as responding "What is Toronto?????" when given the clue, "

Its largest airport is named for a World War II hero; its second largest for a World War II battle." Watson nevertheless managed to demonstrate an unprecedented ability to understand natural language. Watson's correct questions to clues demonstrated everything from knowledge of pop culture ("Who is the Church Lady?") to knowledge of literature; Watson clinched the contest by correctly asking "Who is Bram Stoker?" in Final Jeopardy! on the third and final day, finishing with a total of \$77,147. Ken Jennings, who finished second with \$24,000, added the words, "I, for

one, welcome our new computer overlords," as a subtext to his Final Jeopardy! wager.

Watson would not have been able to dominate the game so effectively, nor even play it, without an understanding of the subtlety of human communication. Indeed, the ultimate goal of the IBM project which spawned Watson, called DeepQA, is to create hardware and software which will allow people to communicate with machines using our own natural language, rather than through search engines or computer code. Like "Deep Blue," the IBM computer which defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997, Watson is an attempt by IBM to expand the abilities of computers into territory once thought accessible only to humans. In the case of Watson, the human ability sought was the ability to communicate using spoken and written language. Computer engineers have struggled for decades with the language barrier between people and machines, and the results of the DeepQA project represent a significant leap forward for the technology.

Watson's task was so complex that IBM engineers had to develop a new computer structure which would allow many processors to run simultaneously; responding to a Jeopardy! clue with one processor takes several hours. While natural language processing technology is still in development, Watson's victory demonstrated that it is possible for

a computer to hear a question in natural language, analyze available information, and respond with a natural language answer which makes sense.

Ultimately, IBM hopes to put software and hardware like that developed by the DeepQA project to use in many fields. Such computers will have the ability to understand natural language queries and quickly scan vast amounts of raw data to deliver an answer. For example, the technology may soon play a large role in the field of medicine. Currently, medical doctors rely largely on memory, databases and bulky textbooks when forming diagnoses on their patients. This can result in waste of precious time when dealing with difficult and time-sensitive cases.

With a computer like Watson at their disposal, doctors could po-

tentially save large amounts of time using the supercomputer to isolate only the important data necessary to arrive at a diagnosis. Watson-like computers are not yet commercially viable; Watson's hardware alone is the size of a room. In a world increasingly saturated with information, however, demand for the technology exists; we may see natural language processing in wide use in the near future.



Don't Cheat Google

By **DA CHUAN SHI, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Search for "dresses" in Google. What comes up? Macy's? Perhaps some websites offering customized dresses or maybe even dress shirts? Good. Now try "bedding." What do you think? Definitely Bed, Bath & Beyond and related stores, right? Now try "area rugs." Yeah, weird thing to search, right? Maybe Home Depot has them, or Sears, or why not the aptly named arearugs.com?

Search something and Google will give you millions of search results, ranging from Wikipedia articles to obscure internet references. The strange thing, however, is

that for a few months before February, J. C. Penney was the first result on each of those terms mentioned above.

For many months, the top spot belonged to J. C. Penney. It not only held the top spot for dresses, bedding or area rugs but also for "skinny jeans," "home decor," "comforter sets," "furniture" and many other terms. From quite general terms to the more specific ("grommet top curtains"), J. C. Penney was at the top of the results.

This amazing performance lasted through the holiday season, which brought millions of customers to J. C. Penney's website. The funny thing is, J. C. Penney even beat manufacturers for their own products.

Type in "Samsonite carry-on luggage," and J. C. Penney would once again top the list instead of Samsonite's website.

Google's goal is to scour the depth of the internet to search for the most relevant website (essentially, the website that is linked to the most). It told us that J. C. Penney was the number one site for "skinny jeans," "home decor," "grommet top curtains" and "area rugs." Well, the amount of linking to J.C. Penney implies that the store's website was the most applicable to each of these searches.

Many of those linked phrases are in context. For example, a phrase that reads "Must wear formal dresses for prom," may use the word "dresses" to link to J. C. Penney's site. A great number of them are not, however. When a quick search of websites with links to J. C. Penney was performed, these results appeared: "Bismarck Travel guide," a link from Wikitravel, "Lead Alert Network- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program," a Floridian government self-help page and "Transsexualism [Part 1]," a page on the University of Michigan's network.

On many of the websites that linked to J. C. Penney, the only active hyperlink was the one that led to the retail store. Exploiting this is a no-no for Google. Doing this makes your website sink into the oblivion of the eighth page Google search results, in turn, giving your company the death penalty. In 2006, BMW decided to make use of this "linking scheme" to redirect traffic to their sites. Google found out and temporarily removed the website from all search results.

You could search "BMW" in Google and never find their website. Although at 7 PM EST on Feb 9, 2011, J. C. Penney was the number one search for "living room furniture," at 9 PM, it sunk to sixty-eighth. One moment, J. C. Penney was the most visible online destination for "living room furniture" and "grommet top curtains" in the world. Two hours later, it sank like the Titanic into the dark depth of Google search results.

Mark Stevens, who runs a company that sells links to websites, discussed the consequences of the "link scheme" with the New York Times. Mr. Stevens said, "It was my fault; I posted a job opening on a Stanford Engineering alumni mailing list, and mentioned the name of our company and a brief description of what we do. I think some Google employees saw it."

In a matter of days, the company disappeared from Google search results.

"Literally, you typed the name of the company into the search box and we did not turn up. Anywhere. You'd find us if you knew our Web address. But in terms of search, we just disappeared." The company now operates with a new name and a profile so low that the landlord of the building has never heard of the company, although the company claims it owns the office that he has.

So, the moral of the story? Don't cheat or lie your way to the top, or Google will make you disappear.



APPARENTLY, THE WORLD'S NO. 1 RETAILER OF GROMMET-TOP CURTAINS

SciTech Tidbits

- >> New Zealand authorities report that a gang of robbers broke into New Plymouth Prison to steal a 50-inch plasma TV. The perpetrators have not been located.
- >> A new dating site, Findyourface-

mate.com, will analyze your photos and use facial-recognition software to pair you up with a date who looks like you.
>> Tyler Coyner, a current college student, was charged with "conspiracy, theft and computer intrusion." He is alleged to have broken into his high school

computer grading system and changed students' grades for money.

>> Apple recently released the iPad 2 and a new line of MacBook Pros with a new port called Thunderbolt that promises speeds many times greater than a USB port. Unfortunately, there

are currently no peripherals that use Thunderbolt.

>> Ernesto Garcia-Bristo, a man from Maryland, was arrested for the possession of two pipe bombs. The police found him because he had announced this on his Facebook profile.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Not Enough Net

By ALEX YUAN, III
STAFF WRITER

The Internet is running out of space. The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) which distributes Internet Protocol addresses throughout the world has finally allocated the final five blocks of 16 million addresses, one each for North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia/Australia. In two to three years most of them will be used up.

An Internet Protocol or IP address is a number given to a device (e.g. computer, printer) that is connected to the Internet. Each website on the Internet also has its own IP address. Basically, IP addresses identify where a device or a website is on the Internet so that it can be found when sending data to or from it.

The current version of IP addresses used today is called Internet Protocol Version 4, or IPv4. An address ranges from 0.0.0.0 to 255.255.255.255. An example of an IPv4 IP address would be 69.63.181.11. If you typed this number into your address bar, it would bring up Facebook, just like if you had typed "http://www.facebook.com" into the address bar. Every website on the Internet and every computer connected to it has an address like this.

The limitation that IPv4 faces is that it has a limit to the number of unique addresses available. That number is around four billion. While that may seem like a lot of IP addresses, (and it did in the 1970s when IPv4 was developed) In-

ternet and computer usage have exploded in recent years, especially in countries such as China, India and the Americas. 300 million of those four billion addresses are also reserved for special purposes and are not supposed to be distributed, and the number of unallocated addresses is shrinking rapidly. As stated previously, the organization that distributes these IP addresses gave away the last five blocks of IP addresses of around 16 million addresses each. When they are used up, there will be no more IP addresses to give out. This means there can be no more new websites or computers connected to the internet, which would lead to a stop in the expansion of the Internet.

In light of this problem, there are only a few solutions, most of them ineffective short-term fixes. There is really only one real long-term solution. It is called Internet Protocol Version 6, or IPv6. (There used to be an IPv5, which was for Internet video, audio and phone connectivity, but development stopped long ago). The main feature of IPv6 is its huge

number of possible addresses. While IPv4 has around four billion, or 4,000,000,000



WILL THIS BE YOU WHEN THE INTERNET APOCALYPSE HITS?

addresses, IPv6 will have 340 undecillion addresses. That's a 34 with 37 zeros following it. If every person on Earth received several trillion addresses, there would still be a huge amount left over.

The major problem now is to implement IPv6 before IPv4 runs dry. If you have a computer that is running Windows Vista or Windows 7, or Mac OS X and higher, you can already handle IPv6. This way, when IPv4 runs dry, the average user may not experience too many changes.

Another problem with IPv6 is that some users are not able to access IPv6 sites because of mis-configured or outdated hardware. In preparation for the transition to IPv6, many sites including Google, Facebook and Yahoo plan to participate in a "World IPv6 Day," (slated for June 8th, 2011) during which these websites will enable IPv6 in addition to IPv4 in order to predict problems that may arise with the transition. The majority of IPv6 "brokenness," as it is called, occurs

on home networks. The only way to resolve that is to call your Internet provider. It's predicted that only 0.05% of Internet users, roughly 1 million people, will have this problem.

Thus, the scope of the problem is not as great as previously anticipated. As long as your Internet Service Provider makes the shift from IPv4 to IPv6, and you have sufficiently updated software and hardware, there should be no issues with the upcoming transition.

Not a "Plane" Old Knockoff

By JAKE ZHANG, III
STAFF WRITER

The J-20, China's first stealth fighter aircraft, made its first test flight on January 20. The news coincided with recent concerns about the country's rising influence in the world. China had just recently surpassed Japan as the second largest economy after the United States, which continues to accumulate trillions of dollars of debt. Although many speculate about China's desire to become another superpower, they have little to worry about the new J-20.

of producing "cheap knockoffs" of everything from cell phones to cars. These nations, however, have the ability not only to imitate American technology but also produce products superior to their Western counterparts—the J-20 plane is no different. Much of its features, including an internal weapon bay and an angled underbelly, both of which are designed to heighten its stealth capabilities, seem to be copied directly from the American F-22. The J-20, however, has been able to incorporate other technologies as well. The tailfins resemble those of the T-50, a Russian attempt to copy the F-22, and

and Russian T-50 are all considered fifth-generation aircraft. These aircraft are generally stealthy and exhibit "supermaneuverability," that is, they can perform back flips in midair. The distinguishing feature of fifth-generation aircraft, however, is their ability to wage what is known as "electronic warfare." As the general public embraces smartphones and social networking sites, militaries around the world have been improving radar jamming and communication. The ability to fly unseen while simultaneously jamming the enemy's radar could be the difference between winning and losing a war. It is

The biggest question the J-20 poses is how it will affect national security. The first test flight occurred the same day that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates made a diplomatic visit to China, although the Chinese insist the occurrence was purely coincidental. Many officials regard the act as an assertion of China's increasing military power. The J-20, however, is not scheduled to be operational until 2017 at the earliest, so what might seem superior now might be outdated by the time the fighter finally takes to the skies. China is also currently in an arms embargo and is unable to acquire advanced military technology from the United States or its allies. The only example the Chinese have of American stealth technology is an F-117 stealth bomber which was shot down during the Kosovo War in 1999. The F-117, however, was considered outdated even back then, so any technology derived from the wreckage would be obsolete today. Analysts predict that it will be a long time until China develops stealth technology that rivals that of the United States. Until then, the American F-22 will be the dominant stealth fighter of the 21st century.

It is difficult to compare the Chinese J-20 with the American F-22, simply because we know so little about it. It is surprising the Chinese have announced the fighter's existence so early in its development. The F-22 and many other American stealth planes like the B-2 bomber were closely guarded secrets for decades. The fact that China has publicly disclosed the J-20's existence is an indication that the stealth fighter seems to be more of a public relations show rather than a military threat. At the rate at which China is developing, however, it is possible that some new unexpected technology may suddenly put the country ahead. Nothing is certain, except that both the United States and China will produce fighter jets that will continue to awe-inspire us for years to come.



NOT YOUR TYPICAL FAKE IPOD

The most obvious characteristic about the new stealth fighter is that it is nearly identical to the United States' F-22 stealth plane. China, along with much of the Eastern world, has a history

the majority of the avionics appear to be Chinese-made. As much as the J-20 might appear to be superior on the outside, it is what is inside that matters.

The Chinese J-20, American F-22

difficult to determine what electronics the J-20 may or may not have. Nevertheless, the intention of the J-20 is almost certainly to challenge the air superiority of both the United States and Russia.

FORUM

Should our government keep secrets?



BY AURELIA PAQUETTE, III
STAFF WRITER

BY ELEANOR HARTE, I
STAFF WRITER

There is no denying that in order to live as a free people, there needs to be a free press. Even though the majority of national affairs need to be publicly accessible in order to prevent corruption, the government needs to keep some information secret to ensure the safety of its people. Secrecy is vital for protecting soldiers, for protecting civilians, for preventing panic and for advancing diplomatic negotiations.

As emblazoned on a World War II propaganda poster, “Loose talk can cost lives.” During times of war more than at any other, a certain amount of secrecy is required. Journalists who report from the battlefield during war make special precautions not to give away the location of the troops they are accompanying. Governments keep blueprints confidential for their weapons; there is no reason why any non-vetted citizen or any enemy needs to know how to build or destroy a country’s most powerful weaponry. As seen from the Arizona shootings as well as the shootings at Virginia Tech and Columbine, there are already enough problems when certain people get access to guns, never mind weapons of mass destruction.

Not only is the government responsible for the physical safety of its people, but it is also to a certain extent responsible for the mental stability of its people. The government receives a multitude of threats to the safety of its people and its leaders, internally and from abroad. Should the government share every threat with the public not only would it foster an environment of fear and uneasiness, but it would also serve the interests of the people who made the threats. Honestly, what is the purpose of a threat but to incite a reaction? Additionally, why should the government announce to a terrorist that they are about to hunt him down?

A somewhat less dramatic field in which secrecy is required is diplomacy. When a friend shares a problem with you, if you want to preserve your relationship with that friend, you do not broadcast his or her problems to the world. Diplomatic negotiations are like this; managing relations requires discretion. Discretion requires secrecy. Some things are better handled quietly. As Wolfgang Ischinger, a German diplomat, points out, every time there is a leak, it destroys trust, the foundation of diplomacy. Some negotiations can only be made under a promise for their secrecy; most countries have legislation that allows decades to pass before the publication of diplomatic documents. In the age of WikiLeaks, in order to protect this necessary secrecy, diplomats may begin communicating in alternate means that may cause their negotiations to never be released to the public due to the nature of the medium (not recorded anywhere). As a result, this would decrease transparency in matters that would eventually be shared with the populace. Yes, transparency in government affairs is crucial to the liberty of a nation.

Yes, deceitful propaganda, under-the-table-behind-closed-doors deals between politicians and bribers and fixed elections are all bad. Nevertheless, for practical reasons the government should keep some secrets. In this technological age where everyone has access to so much information – from the “info” tabs on Facebook that tell you all about your friends’ likes to the infamous Formspring that encourages sharing with everyone what historically many would only share with a select few – there is a general perception that everyone has the right to know everything, but do you really want to risk the lives of soldiers and civilians, the success of CIA missions, the mental well-being of the populace and the resolution of peace treaties?

Throughout many presidential administrations, people have suspected that the government kept secrets from the public. In some of these cases, the secrets that were exposed led to complete disarray and disaster and often a severe distrust of the administration among the people. I suspect, however, that there were many cases in which secrets were never exposed, but does this mean that there were no secrets? Of course not. It means that the government was clever enough to hide its secrets from the people – an act for which its members should be ashamed. Hiding secrets from the public, which itself has elected the officials, is an unacceptable act and should result in the removal of officials.

The citizens are the fundamental part of the nation. Therefore, they should know what the government is doing for the well-being of the country. If there are problems in the country, the government should tell the people. If the people are aware of this information, they can try to help the country. Keeping the public in the dark means the public cannot put their ideas to work. Less secrecy leads to a freer society. As a result, the government will run more smoothly and effectively because it will not waste time covering up its actions. Keeping secrets only serves to create unrest within the people and leads to distrust of the government. If the government keeps secrets from the public, the public remains ignorant. An ignorant society is one that is prone to disaster.

While WikiLeaks, an online-based organization that publishes secret and classified information on the Internet, is controversial, it ensures that American citizens know important things about the government in some way. If the government refuses to inform its citizens, the people will nevertheless learn about these matters. Citizens will find out about the government through other means, and it is insulting that the government keeps secrets and thinks that the American people will not know. If the people use other channels to gain information, the country falls into disaster. It will result in the citizens’ distrust of the government. Even though the people may not always understand what the government is telling them, it is crucial that the people are given the chance to understand. WikiLeaks allows the secrets of the government to be exposed, thus allowing the people to do something about it. Without channels like WikiLeaks, the public is left completely unaware of important things the government is doing secretly.

To keep the citizens informed is one of the most important duties of the government. The citizens are the country because, without them, there would be no government. As such, the government has an obligation to keep the people informed. Having clueless citizens defeats the purpose of a democracy. Our parents at home tell us what is going on in our households, and, in the same role, the government should tell us what is going on in our country. If citizens are ignorant, they might vote for officials in a way that is adverse for the country in the actual current situation. Citizens have placed their trust in the government by election. If the people cannot trust the government, whom can they trust?

When the government keeps its citizens in the dark about the state of our nation, we, as a people, are made to feel like we cannot be trusted. We should have a relationship with our government based on trust. Because the government insists on keeping secrets from the people, however, such a relationship is impossible. If the government were to have a policy in which they chose not to keep secrets from the people, our society would be much better off.

Forum Question

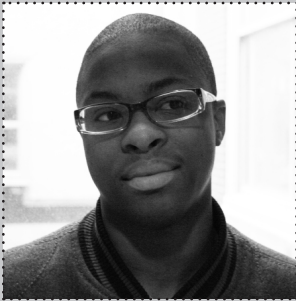
Should our government keep secrets?



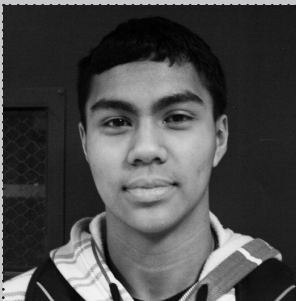
“No, because we’re a democracy and that should represent the government.”
— Abby Searles, I



“No. Some things are better left unsaid. What yo mamma don’t know won’t hurt her.”
— Joseph McCourt, II



“No, because ultimately it's against what’s supposed to be a democracy. We are the government.”
— Greg Stewart, III



“No, the government should be run by the people.”
— Brian Mangilog, IV



“I think they should because it is needed to keep the peace.”
— Katie Yeager, V



“No, I would be depressed to hear secrets about aliens.”
— Alejandra Spruill, VI

FORUM

Teen Mom: The Best Contraceptive

By **BOBBY FITZPATRICK, II**
FORUM EDITOR

Reality shows have become very popular during the past two decades, but with their popularity has come damnation from masses of helicopter moms. Almost all of the MTV-style reality shows revolve around partying and drinking, which enraged parents think would obviously result in high school dropouts and/or party animals (or their own reality TV show if they happen to be Italian-Americans). When 16 and Pregnant and its sequel Teen Mom aired on MTV, parents were beside themselves. They thought and still do believe that these programs glamorize teen pregnancy by giving its teen moms reality show stardom. But even though most reality TV shows offer viewers a jaded depiction of life (you can live in a house for free with endless supplies of booze and party 24/7 without a real job), Teen Mom actually offers a very realistic one. The show does not glamorize the lives of its “stars,” and by not doing so, it does not encourage young girls to have kids, contrary to many parental beliefs.

First of all, how can people condemn Teen Mom when it is the only realistic teen pregnancy show on TV? The Secret Life of the American Teenager, for example, addresses only the superficial problems that teen moms face. The main



DO YOU WANT TO BE FAMOUS FOR THIS?

character remarkably manages to continually go to school both during and after her pregnancy! Teen Mom, on the other hand, shows that for all of the featured mothers, this situation is basically impossible. Teen Mom also shows that their social lives go down the drain after giving birth, because mothering is a perpetual job; The Secret life conveniently forgets to show this sacrifice. By watching The Secret Life, a viewer is disillusioned to think that pregnancy is basically a nine-month body image change and nothing more. Teen Mom teaches that pregnancy alters schooling and socializing, the two biggest components of teen life.

Not only does Teen Mom show

responsibilities, the two mothers started fighting more and more often. When she did make an effort, however, her mother would constantly find fault with Janelle's nurturing, which led to further fighting. The hostility escalated to the point where her mother fought for Jace's custody and won, while also kicking Janelle out of their shared home. The program obviously shows that familial support and a happy family are never guaranteed with a newborn. It may seem that by having a baby, a mother can start a cute family, but only if the mother is responsible, which is not the case for many teen moms.

If the mothers are lucky enough

that the mothers' lives change, but also that their lives are filled with many new challenges. Almost all of the relationships between the new mothers and their parents turn sour. Janelle, for example, was a rebellious daughter who tried to keep up her partying lifestyle after having her baby, Jace. Her mother was then forced to watch the baby or risk leaving him alone all night. As Janelle took on less of her maternal

not to lose their children, they often have to carry the financial burden of raising a child alone, after their baby daddies leave them. Without sufficient schooling, the girls enter the job market behind everyone else. They have to get jobs that pay minimum wage, if they can find any at all. And not only must they work to feed their children, but they must also find time to actually care for them. Furthermore, if the mother is really trying to have a future for her family, she does all of this while taking college courses. This is clearly too much for one person to handle, which is made apparent when the mothers have nervous breakdowns and second-guess ever having the baby in the first place.

How could people ever believe that this is a life that viewers are jealous of? No teenager wants to emulate a girl who has lost her social life and education and must live hand to mouth while juggling a job and newborn, with a chance of losing that baby and the rest of her family due to stress and ineptitude. Common sense can tell anyone that all of those burdens could never be worth getting screen time on a reality show. So maybe all of the angry parents may want to tune into Teen Mom before deciding that it is single-handedly causing America's teens to purposefully get pregnant. In all honesty, Teen Mom is better than any contraceptive ever invented.

NHS: An Hour Lost

By **MAYA ALLEGRO, II**
STAFF WRITER

National Honor Society. Three words with the power to make any number of “unqualified” junior or senior high school students roll their eyes. In the days leading up to the sinfully long assembly, the esteemed society was discussed far too frequently for sanity's sake. We get it, they're smart, they're helpful, they get to dress up, please continue. Do the days have no meaning without hearing this over and over again? It's enough to turn a reasonable student into a bitter one.

The personality that really gets rewarded the most is: “the student of good character who upholds the principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, respect for others and generally maintains a good and clean lifestyle.” Congratulations Hufflepuff! Your squeaky clean lifestyle really paid off!

Now, don't get me wrong, I can (sort of) respect the inspired idea behind the National Honor Society: to award the students who already win at life. Does this really merit an hour-long assembly? Let's be serious, these kids know their way around an award ceremony. In many cases, we listen to teachers praise and fawn over the little angels on a daily basis. Of course they deserve the praise, the pin, the resume-padder and the day off, but I think it is time to accept that that is all it is.

Are we really pretending that National Honor Society holds any sort of esteem anymore? Granted, here at Boston Latin School, we still have some sort of process, but really, schools practically give the title away. Who could blame them for trying to help their students in these cutthroat collegiate times? It's almost depressing that we think we can root out the students with “outstanding performance in the areas of: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character” via GPAs and a list of extracurriculars. How accurate

is a form in trying to decide between the honorable and the not? Shouldn't these ideal students be the ones who don't need an award to make “voluntary contributions, without compensation and with a positive, courteous and enthusiastic spirit”? Isn't the fact that I passed Latin enough of an accomplishment?

In our heart of hearts we all know this; we must. Yet somehow we end up stuck in the Boston Latin School auditorium for an hour, listening to attempts at finding depth and meaning in the Honor Society equivalent of The House Bunny. Speech after speech of “these are your leaders,” and “they do in one day what would take you weeks, if not months,” and “if it weren't for these people guiding you, I doubt you'd have survived this long”. Frankly the love-fest made me uncomfortable. Though they tried to throw us off with reverse psychology (It's MORE than a pin and a day off), it was obvious even to someone with a GPA below 3.7 that it may be time to give up this tradition.

Pointless ritual aside, the NHS award ceremony is more a practice in humiliation than anything else. The lesser-than students sit in their seats, hearing how little they have accomplished, and watch what they might have accomplished if they had lived a life completely different than their own, or in the case of those unlucky few who almost got in, only slightly differently. You can't blame the students being deemed honorable; they probably don't feel comfortable with their entire graduating class watching either. The ceremony is filled with awkward applause and near tears.

It isn't realistic to think that BLS would abolish the National Honor Society. It's a tradition, and tradition is kinda our school's thing. Making as small of a change, however, such as giving out the awards in front of a smaller audience that doesn't include the entire junior and senior class, would help those who aren't a part of the National Honor Society not feel worse about themselves.

No Funding Abortion

By **NHU LE, III**
STAFF WRITER

“The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act,” a bill sponsored by House Republicans, who are currently making the rounds in Congress, seems innocuous at first. Currently, America does not provide federal funding for abortions (unless in cases of rape, incest or danger to the mother's life). This is achieved through use of the Hyde Amendment, a legislative provision attached to annual appropriation bills. For example, due to the Hyde Amendment, Medicaid, the federal health insurance program for people and families with low incomes, does not cover abortions unless it falls under the three exceptions above. Therefore, nothing would change if the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” is passed, right? Wrong.

The problem here is the misleading name. It is not the same as the Hyde Amendment at all. It does not stipulate that the federal government cannot directly fund abortion. Instead, it bars companies and other organizations that offer private insurance plans with abortion coverage from certain tax breaks and deductions.

This is clearly a much farther step to the elimination of abortion coverage than the Hyde Amendment. Republicans are trying to convince others that the bill only makes a small change and is no different than the Hyde Amendment. Actually, it may eliminate private abortion coverage. Small businesses, the self-employed and those with health savings accounts won't be able to claim that abortions are medical expenses. Analysts also generally agree that companies will also have a huge incentive to not offer insurance plans that cover abortion to their employees. After all, what company wants to lose money? The woman who needs an abortion will

have to pay for it herself.

One of the most irksome aspects of this bill is the rampant hypocrisy Republicans are displaying as they push for this bill. Republicans are supposedly against the regulation of companies. They cried that Obama's healthcare bill would limit individual and company choices in selecting health insurance plans, yet this bill will do the same! They are contradicting themselves.

Furthermore, this bill clearly supports the pro-life movement, a part of mainstream Republican ideology. The Republicans, however, refuse to acknowledge that this is so, claiming that they are simply trying to cut costs with the bill. Though employer tax exemption is the government's largest tax expenditure, specifically attacking abortion coverage reeks of hidden moral motives. This is supported by some of the language of the earlier drafts of the bill, which used the terms “pregnant female,” as if a woman was merely a vessel for the child, and “forcible rape” (which would have redefined rape and barred some cases of



it from funding). If ideology is involved, say so. Don't claim otherwise. Whether or not you are pro-choice or pro-life, abortion is a medical procedure that costs a lot of money. A woman should still be able to have her abortion covered under her private health insurance policy. A bill that so viciously attacks abortion coverage should not be passed by Congress.

FORUM

Coming (Out) to a Theater Near You!

BY NAOMI LEONARD, II
ASSISTANT FORUM EDITOR

Since the 1970s there have been 17 actors who have won Oscars for their portrayal of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) characters. Seven out of these 17 movies have been made in the past ten years. And now, with the popularity of shows such as *Modern Family*, *Glee* and *Skins* (American or British, whatever floats your boat), it's hard to deny that gay and lesbian characters have taken over both mediums of Hollywood! Or at least finally become part of it.

Since movies were first made, there have been LGBT characters on screen, but their sexuality was rarely stated out loud. The characters were seldom the focus of the movies, and their roles were often played for laughs because of their excessively effeminate mannerisms. There has also been a surprisingly high number of gay and lesbian interest films made in the past few decades, but because of MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America, the agency that give movies their rating) standards, these films could rarely be advertised, and therefore were rarely put in theaters. This is still true today, even with the influx of LGBT characters into popular culture. But what does it say about America that this influx has happened? Has the country as a whole finally become more tolerant? And why did the change happen so slowly?

Homophobia has always existed in

our country to some degree. Whenever there happens to be a movie with a homosexual main character, he usually dies. Actually, there are not many mainstream movies in which the gay or lesbian character does not die, just think of *Milk*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Philadelphia* or *Boys Don't Cry*. There is another change that has happened recently: the gay character lives a little more often now. In fact,



ONSCREEN HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES NO LONGER TABOO FOR HOLLYWOOD

recently there have been movies made that have an LGBT character played not just as some comic relief or condemned hero. The movie *The Kids are All Right* won both Best Comedy and Best Actress in a Comedy for Annette Bening at the

Golden Globes a couple weeks ago. Now that homosexuality is becoming more mainstream, the movie *I Love You Philip Morris* was finally released in some U.S. theaters last month. This movie was released in Europe long before it was released in the U.S. despite the fact that it was made in the United States. This happened because the film could not find an American studio that would distribute it.

characters now, it does not mean Hollywood is entirely gay-friendly. In the past, actors and actresses stayed in the closet for fear of sabotaging their career if they came out, and their fears were in no way unfounded. When the actor Rupert Everett came out in 1989, his career was virtually destroyed. Directors rarely felt comfortable putting him in straight roles, which then and now, are what most roles are. Blacklisting, however, which results from coming out, is being phased out with actors starting to come out. Ellen Page and Neil Patrick Harris have somewhat recently come out and in doing so, did not destroy their careers. They are still being cast in some straight roles, and their popularity is undeniable. This gives us hope that maybe this younger Hollywood will be more accepting than its predecessors.

So has America become more tolerant? Yes. Does this mean that gays and lesbians do not face prejudice? No. But perhaps their more frequent appearance in pop culture will help America become more comfortable with the idea of homosexuality. Many fears are rooted in the fear of the unknown. So, LGBT characters being played with dignity will most often improve America's perception of homosexuality, especially when it comes to shows for young adults, who are still forming their opinions about the world. And maybe one day movies with homosexual main characters won't even have to address homosexuality.

This film eventually made it around that barrier, and although it is not doing as well here as it did in the United Kingdom, it is still a step in the right direction.

Despite the fact that films and TV shows are more willing to feature LGBT

AI with a Higher IQ

BY KATIE WANG, III
STAFF WRITER

Be afraid, be very afraid. Now would be the time to stock up on batteries and ammunition. The machines are coming, and they're coming fast—with more terabytes in their database than you can ever imagine. If you watched the International Business Machines (IBM) Challenge on *Jeopardy!* just a few weeks ago, you would have seen the newest IBM creation unleash its forces against two meek human competitors in a gruesome clash between the living flesh and the machines.

Near the end of the battle of naming Beatles lyrics, literary characters and world capitals, Ken Jennings, one of the better survivors of the competition, sensing that defeat was imminent, scribbled in a last attempt at salvation: "I, for one, welcome our new computer overlords."

Okay, I might be exaggerating a little. The two human competitors in this challenge are actually *Jeopardy!* all-time champions, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter, both of whom were equipped with dark fitted suits, slicked-back hair and a "few bucks worth of water, salts, and proteins in their brains," as Jennings puts it. But IBM's beast of a creation, named Watson, still remains unbeatable. Composed of a room-sized computer with a 15-terabyte database and 200 million pages of information, Watson was completed in six full years before making its appearance on the long-anticipated IBM Challenge.

And Jennings is quite accurate in his final words of submission. Our civilization at this moment in time has never seen such an abundance of technology pervade the average human life. It's hard to imagine a day gone by without the use of iPods, computers, cell phones and television. In many positive ways, technology has facilitated and transformed life here on Earth. It's absolutely inspiring to just marvel at its deafeningly swift pace—from vinyl records to tapes to CDs

to the now ubiquitous iPod. Technology has advanced our civilization to meet the demands of the modern world. It has made what was once "the impossible" into "the possible."

On the contrary, technology and contemporary media have almost completely governed our lives today, influencing the way we think, act and speak. With the inventions of newer and more innovative technology, people have become more distant with each other. It's as if they live in a small world only amongst their electronic and touch screen gadgets. If we continue to let technology invade our lives further and further, our humanity will become ever enslaved by it.

Whatever happened to the quality of our language? Have we lost our pride in the value of words? Why is it that most of the time when we type or text the casual "LOL," we are not actually laughing out loud? Can you remember a time when we did not sit behind a computer screen, or a time when we flipped pages of actual books, instead of holding a flat, silver board we like to call the Kindle?

Our society is seeing less and less human interaction because of our obsession with technology, and it is driving people and their families, communities and friends into being more distant with each other. Although technology from the surface seems like a way to transform society into a more modern and efficient space, what if it replaces the emotional and aesthetic qualities of man?

Sure, man is far from perfect, but these imperfections are what tie humans together essentially. In flaws, there lies beauty. But, we do not realize that machines are managing to corrupt these "human" faults and have swallowed a huge portion of our lives. Technology is not always a good thing—it can be dangerous. If we keep inventing, innovating and fixing the present, the past and rich cultures of our civilization may be lost to the authority of technology forever.



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Big Band Dominates Festival

By **BRANDON HAIRSTON, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While the Boston Latin School Big Band may not be the most popular or well-publicized organization in the school, it is easy to recognize its members. Just look for someone dressed in all black carrying an amp, some drum equipment and an instrument. More likely than not, you'll find one. Particularly in the Music Wing, news of the band and its happenings spread like wildfire.

Why all the hype? The answer is easy: members of Big Band are pretty much the elite of the musicians here at BLS. Admission into its ranks requires several rounds of rigorous auditioning, and the band has a reputation of being a competitive force when it comes to all things jazz. This last statement was certainly proven true on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at the International Association of Jazz Education Cape Cod District Jazz Festival.

The IAJE Festival is known throughout the Bay State area as one of the most cut-throat competitions in the region. In what resembles the preliminaries of a tournament, bands perform and are rated according to a medal system. The bands that are awarded gold, the highest possible medals, go on to the state finals in which they compete with other gold-medal bands from across the state.

As a member of the band myself, I speak from experience when I say that the band was ready to kill on the



BEN MOSS (II) DREAMS OF GOLD

most spectacular one, but we still played well when compared to the other groups.

We sat through all of the giving of the awards, mainly because ours was given last. A medal rating was awarded, and three Most Valuable Players were named for each band. The three from BLS were Michael Raleigh (I), Dan Moreno (I) and Warren Thompson (I). In addition, one member out of all the groups was named MVP of the entire district. The recipient, Warren Thompson, was from our band. We left the festival feeling very proud of all we had accomplished. As

day of the festival. Despite the fact that the group was down a few key players, we were still anxious to prove our capability, and we hit the ground running.

Though we were fascinated by the luxuries of the suburban school that was hosting the festival, we did not let it distract us too much. We remained as focused as possible all through rehearsal, allowing ourselves to relax and have fun while waiting for our ensemble to be called. Luckily for us, members

of Big Band are more than used to performing before illustrious audiences, resulting in a sort of imperviousness to pre-stage jitters. This was compounded by the fact that the audience was far from intimidating, comprised mostly of enthusiastic parents and dedicated high school music supporters.

Big Band was also the last of the performances. This gave us a competitive edge and allowed our group to be rated against all the other bands that had gone before. The performance was not our

we reviewed the judges' sheets on the bus ride home, our feeling of pride grew even stronger. One of the judges gave us gold in every category and even wrote at the bottom of the score sheet, "You guys were so good that you deserve platinum, maybe even titanium!"

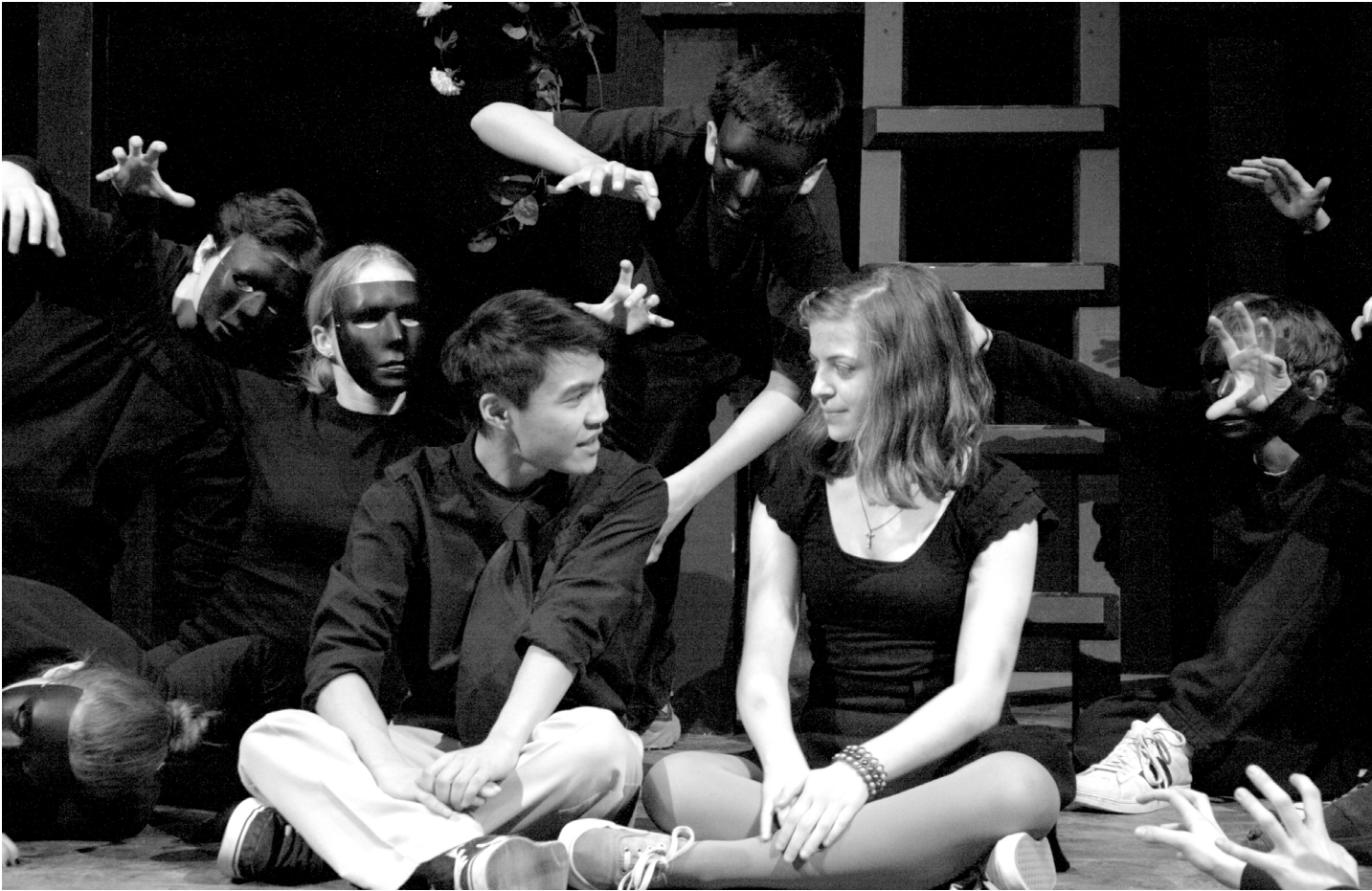
Though behind the scenes, the BLS Big Band represents the school at various different gigs and competitions. Not everyone may know about our group, but representing BLS in the best of lights is more than satisfying for all of us.

Rulers of the Realm

By **MICHELLE PRINCIPI, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Back in December, auditions were held and parts were cast for the 2010-2011 school year's Theater Guild production. Guild veterans braced themselves for what was to come. But little did the newcomers to Guild know that, for the next two months, their lives would be dominated by rehearsals, their new home would be the Black Box; and they would bond with their fellow actors and crew members more than they ever thought possible in such a short time.

Unlike the fall play and the spring musical, the Guild production is entered into a competition along with 114 other high school in Massachusetts. Last Saturday saw the Boston Latin School Theater Company venturing out to Framingham for the preliminary round of the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild High School Festival. After months of hard work and rehearsing, the group experienced what can only be described as one of the most fun days of the school year. The (extremely long) day flew by in a blur of candy, four-square, a dance party and, most importantly, performing for and watching the performances of the seven other high schools present.



ANDY VO (I) AND SHOSHANNA MINSK (III) LOST IN THE UNDERWORLD

The festival is comprised of three rounds of competition—preliminaries (or "prelims"), semi-finals ("semis") and state finals—in which schools perform a play in under 40 minutes for an audience and judges. During each round, the productions are judged not only on the overall level of performance, but also on technical aspects such as sound and lighting. The schools must also complete a set-up and strike of their set in less than five minutes. If any of the time limits are not met, the school is disqualified. In the preliminary round, three out of eight schools at each site are selected to advance to the semi-

final round. Then, two schools from each semi-final site move on to the state finals. In addition, judges give special recognition to members of the "All-Star Cast" of the day—the actors and crew members who have demonstrated extreme skill in their field, be it sound, lighting, set design or, of course, acting.

After a stand-out performance, BLS was rewarded with not only an advancement to the semi-final round, but also numerous All-Star awards, including technical awards for sound and set design. The play performed was "The Realm" by Stefanie Meyer and, in typical BLS style, was dramatically different than any other

school's production. "The Realm" tells the story of Kansas and James, two children trapped in a dystopian, post-apocalyptic, underground society where language is stolen from citizens, and water is a scarce and precious resource. Only those who are immune to the underground air are able to retain their language and their desire for water. Kansas is one of the few immune people and must choose between joining the Realm, masquerading as a "normal" citizen and keeping her language and desire, or having both forcibly (and painfully) taken from her, but being able to remain with James and gaining a more peaceful life. James, on the other hand, is

not immune, and he gradually succumbs to the Realm's overwhelming power.

Guild is hectic and stressful, and inevitably, those involved with it question what fit of insanity led to their decision to participate. But after all is said and done, nothing compares to the pride of putting on a great show and the new friendships that are formed. There is no award more precious than that.

"The Realm" will have an encore performance on Friday, March 18 at 3:30 P.M. in the Black Box. Come see the show and support the BLS Theater Company before their performance in the semi-final round!

A & E

Spring Re-Awakening

By **ANDREW FAVORITO, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Now that the ice and snow have finally melted and the grass has started to grow, it is time to put away our winter wardrobes and break out the new spring clothes we have been secretly hoarding in our closets since January. The weather may be drastically different than winter, but the direction of fashion has not exactly changed; it is still the 40s meets the 70s in the 90s for a minimalist cocktail with a twist of Tom Ford’s stint at Gucci. That’s right, somehow we have got to make this all work, but luckily, with the clothes we have been given for the upcoming months, it should not be

come accustomed to referring as “pants.” Steer clear of light washes; stick instead to selvage or dark denim. The look is long and lean with a hint of Stevie Nicks circa 1977, and, if done right, you will look like you belong on “The Sartorialist.”

Lace has also made a comeback and not in the Forever 21 version that is seen everywhere—think of a crisp, white cotton sundress or blouse (Dolce & Gabbana). Keep in mind color is always an option for spring, but instead of the usual pastels, break out the neons and primary colors (Jil Sander, Miu Miu).

Showing a little midriff is also big (Versace), but to ensure you do not look like Julia Stiles in 10 Things I Hate About You, keep your belly button covered.

wear a few prints at once.

Skirts are now back down to mid-calf, so it is time to tuck those skintight thigh-grazers in the back of your closet and break out the longer and more forgiving styles now in stores (Lanvin). The key to mastering this, however, is steering clear from looking anything remotely peasant-like – meaning no tiers, no paisleys and no florals. Keep skirts simple. Stick with solid colors, and make sure the material has a little bit of flow.

Finally, to top it all off, trade in those clunky riding boots for a pair of stacked platform heels or espadrilles (Yves Saint Laurent), put on a wide-brimmed hat (Marc Jacobs) and nix the totes for small shoulder bags (Louis Vuitton). It



RUNWAY MODELS STRUTTING THEIR STUFF WITH THE LATEST SPRING FASHIONS

hard at all.

Even though a heartfelt contempt for any jeans that belong to the boot-cut, flared or bell-bottom family will keep me from recommending them along with straight-legged jeans, they were all that was shown on spring runways. Throw away the jeggings and spandex we have be-

How should you do it, you may ask? The answer is simple – grab a pair of those on-trend colorful high-waist shorts, chop the bottom half off of a t-shirt, and you are in business. Prints are also huge this season, but ditch the predictable florals. Make it quirky (like the baroque banana-printed dresses at Prada), and do not be afraid to

may sound like your wardrobe needs an overhaul to accommodate all of this, but do not disregard the basics either. A simple white t-shirt and a classic trench, shown in many collections, will also carry you far this season and keep you right on the mark without making you look ridiculous.

Patronize Our Theatres

By **SOPHIA VITELLO, VI**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is no secret that Broadway shows are among some of the most popular forms of entertainment out there. It seems that lately everyone has been talking about Wicked, Mary Poppins, Jersey Boys and other popular Broadway favorites. But what many people seem to forget is that there are many local productions of classic favorites such as A Midsummer Night’s Dream or Annie right in their own neighborhood! Local theatres can be fun entertainment without expensive ticket prices or all the hustle and bustle of trying to be at the theatre punctually while still finding time for dinner. Most towns have their own small theatre where one can buy cheap tickets and enjoy great entertainment locally. The cast can range from little kids to adults, but they all pitch in to provide the audience with an enjoyable performance. The elaborate costumes, artistic scenery and wonderful performing make

the plays very similar to Broadway productions but for a quarter of the cost.

In Jamaica Plain, the plays, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Willy Wonka, were recently performed at the Footlight



THE STRAND THEATRE IN DORCHESTER

Club Theatre. In addition to wonderful performances put on by dedicated

casts, the shows at the Footlight Club often correspond with works that Boston Latin School students read for school. This provides students with an often-missed opportunity to see their school assignments come to life on the stage as well as a new perception or understanding of the piece.

Strand Theatre in Dorchester is another community theatre that is often overlooked. In addition to putting on community plays, the Strand also holds fun events such as festivals and poetry readings. The theatre holds annual contests and events such as the annual Poetry Slam, where anyone who wants to participate is allowed to perform poetry and share their verse skills. Aspiring actors can also get involved with their local theatre, which is a great way to meet people in your community and have fun while acting. Whether on stage or in the audience, local theatre performances are one of the most overlooked treasures of the city and an easy way to enjoy time with friends and family!

Spotlight

Ciarán Foley



By **SAM WRIGHT, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

He’s got the friends, the brains, the looks, the girl, the roles, the voice, the talent and, of course, The Beard.

You may think that Ciarán Foley has got it all. Well, you’d be... no, actually you’d be right. He really does have it all.

Like the rest of us, though, Ciarán has grown remarkably throughout his time at Boston Latin School. When I met him way back in first grade, he was quite the opposite from the modern day Ciarán. He was constantly hyper, always crazy, with a trademark smart mouth and a devilish grin. Nevertheless, since day one, I’ve always seen the same intelligence, courage and talent which we now know and love him for. Whether it was his knowledge of historical events and geography, which started as alarmingly early as the fourth grade, his life, hectic from commitments to various soccer teams, or even his love for the arts, which was cultivated by our tap dance debut “street style” for the first productions of the Urban Nutcracker, I, like anyone who has met him, have always known that Ciarán would one day become something great. What we didn’t know was when it would happen, or just how great he would become.

Now we’re in our senior year and I get to see the Ciarán Foley that was always just waiting to happen. He’s still got as much energy as ever, though now he diverts it into more productive activities. This year alone he’s the president of Wolftones, a member of Chamber Choir and a participant in the Eastern Senior Districts, and he was one of the leads in the fall play, Rhinoceros, which I directed. He is also a member of the tech crew with me for this year’s BLS entry into the annual Guild Theatre Competition. He takes guitar lessons and is a member of the Symphonic Band - and that’s only part of the list! Even better, this upcoming term he will be starring in the Music Man, this year’s musical, and will, of course, be fabulous!

Suffice it to say, Ciarán has really changed over the years and has grown into a truly responsible and mature adult. As he approaches the big 18 (and the Class of 2011 approaches graduation!), he only gets better and better. He has left his mark on this school and will assuredly be remembered for years to come as a truly exemplary student. So, no matter what he wants to do with his life or where he goes to school, there is one thing we can all be sure of: this is a boy who is going places.

I’m just excited to see where my best friend will go.

Spotlight
Sam Wright



By CIARÁN FOLEY, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Humphrey Bogart spoke those immortal words on the fog-laden airfields of Casablanca, “Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship,” it was as if he were speaking directly about the intensely bromantic affair that Samuel Krum Wright and I have been locked in for what is now 11 years.

But let’s skip to the interesting part. In the eighth grade, Sam developed both a personality and a hairstyle that reminded me of Larry from The Three Stooges, and he hasn’t looked back since. He began collecting manga. He began wearing his keys on a carabineer hooked onto his belt loop, a trademark of his unique and cutting-edge nouveau avant-blanc noir style even today. He joined Boston Latin School Theatre, acting in such critically acclaimed plays as “The Drift of the Shiftless Schemer,” “The Fool’s Cube,” “Playfully Dark, or Boy’s Stories” and “Slant Seraph.” Most importantly Sam devoted himself to the pursuit of the graphic arts, improving quickly and steadily from very humble beginnings. In fact (though he would kill me for exposing the secret) Sam was recently offered a professorship at the Yale University School of Graphic Art, a position which includes a personal helipad and an army of hyper-intelligent Roombas.

Last summer Sam made a trip to Amsterdam for a summer program studying the local flora. While there he met and fell in love with Elisabeth van Dorpe, wealthy heiress, famed classical clarinetist and daughter of the owner of Legoland. Their consequent elopement back to the United States, while largely unnoticed on this side of the Atlantic, became infamously known in Holland as “The Samdorpe Scandal.” While not globetrotting, Sam enjoys dancing with cats and hanging out with his core group of friends.

In my humble opinion as a trusted friend, Sam’s greatest asset is his “stick-to-it-iveness.” Sam can be found spending hours designing, creating and perfecting the sets that have won him awards at the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival and the Cannes Film Festival. He regularly pulls all-nighters to balance his rigorous course work with his work on such artistic masterpieces as Waves at Small Point and Nude, with a Frightening Monkey. There truly is not enough paper in the world to completely express the praises that this dedicated young man deserves, and while many of the previous statements were entirely facetious, this one is not. Sam, I love you, man.

*N.B. The factual basis of this spotlight was a scientific article published in Science magazine by real scientists during National Science Month. All opinions are, however, the writer’s own.

A & E
Oscars Less Than Stunning

By ZOE CUIPYLO-WATKINS, I
STAFF WRITER

Some years, after watching the Oscars, I cannot help but think to myself, were they high when they made it? This year, however, was the only year, where, courtesy of James Franco’s after-performance interview, I knew that at least half of the hosting team actually was. The announcement that Anne Hathaway and James Franco—neither of whom are

brought very little to the Awards show. That is not to say that the show was all bad, since it did have its moments of glory. But the good (the best of which was the first five minutes of the show) was mostly outweighed by the bad (which included several of the most awkward awards presentations I’ve ever seen, and I have not missed an awards show since I was four... so you can do the math there).

The 83rd Annual Academy Awards themselves were, for the most part, un-

see Portman jump on a table screaming, “I am the black swan.” Christian Bale’s Supporting Actor win for The Fighter was also a surprise to no one except him, apparently. But let’s face it. Batman has had a hard enough life, and he deserved a win. While accepting her Best Supporting Actress statue for The Fighter, Melissa Leo single-handedly managed to justify the awards show time delay by dropping the f-bomb mid-speech.

The one slightly unpredictable category, however, was the ever coveted Best Picture. The King’s Speech win, while well-deserved for a well-acted, well-written and well-directed film, angered the legions of The Social Network fans and the six people who saw Winter’s Bone. Tom Hooper, the director of The King’s Speech, winning over David Fincher, the director of the Social Network, for Best Director was also unsurprising. The King’s Speech had swept at the Screen Actors Guild awards and British Academy of Film and Television Arts, while the unstoppable train that was The Social Network had slowed down somewhat as it neared awards season. Granted, Aaron Sorkin did win Best Adapted Screenplay for this Facebook giant, but the film was undoubtedly hoping and even expecting to take home top honors. Luckily for them, however, Best Score went to the endlessly deserving Social Network score, while Best Original Song, despite the charming Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi performance of “I See The Light” from Tangled, went to Randy Newman’s “We Belong Together” from Toy Story 3. The other sound awards went to the well deserving Inception. You cannot make all those brrms without winning a few awards after all.

Saving the biggest and best for last, the Oscars marked the end of the movie awards season, as it does every year. Of course, there is always next year’s Oscars to look forward to, but this year is looking to be more of a year for superheroes and sequels than any award-winning films. But the truth is, you never know. Maybe Blake Lively will blow us away in Green Lantern. Maybe Harry Potter’s final installment will be the one that finally brings in the statue. Until then, well, we’ll always have the Dance of the Brown Duck.



A LESS THAN PERFECT DUO

comedians, and both of whom are well below the average age of Academy Awards’ hosts—would be hosting the Oscars was initially met with mixed reactions. Unfortunately, the doubts were proven to be well-founded, and Hathaway was forced to carry the show, in which she succeeded respectably enough. Besides proving that, yes, some men can pull off tights, Franco

surprising. Colin Firth’s Best Actor grab for his portrayal of King George VI is what fans have been waiting for since he was unfairly passed over for his turn in Mamma Mia!. Natalie Portman lost twenty pounds and danced for six hours a day for Black Swan. At this point, not giving her the Oscar might have resulted in life imitating art and no one wanted to

Horoscopes

By ANDY VO, I
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

Your ambitious nature will bring you misfortune this month, Caesar. And watch out for the Ides of March—it might be too killer of a night...

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

This Evacuation Day, step away from your shy nature and have a fun night out, in the true spirit of Evacuation Day! (But first, maybe you should find out what the true spirit of Evacuation Day is...)

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Don’t pull a Charlie Sheen this month! ‘Nuff said.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Your mail will come bearing gifts! You’ve made it this far, BLS seniors. You can do it!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Break out the fanny pack and camera, and go exploring in your own town! If you find yourself in the North End on St. Patrick’s Day, a lucky leprechaun will surely come your way!

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Congratulations! You will win everything you enter this month, and you will be transferred to Newton South, home of champions and the Lion’s Roar of Newton South!

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You’re going to have to make some tough decisions this month. For example: AP Government, or AP Modern Euro? Long prom dress or short prom dress? BLT or Caesar salad? Godspeed.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Your natural-born luck will come in handy this season. Try your hand at the betting

tables this March, and you might be able to win big. (Duke all the way!)

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Avoid banquets bearing turkeys. It is not Thanksgiving, Rachel Tripp.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

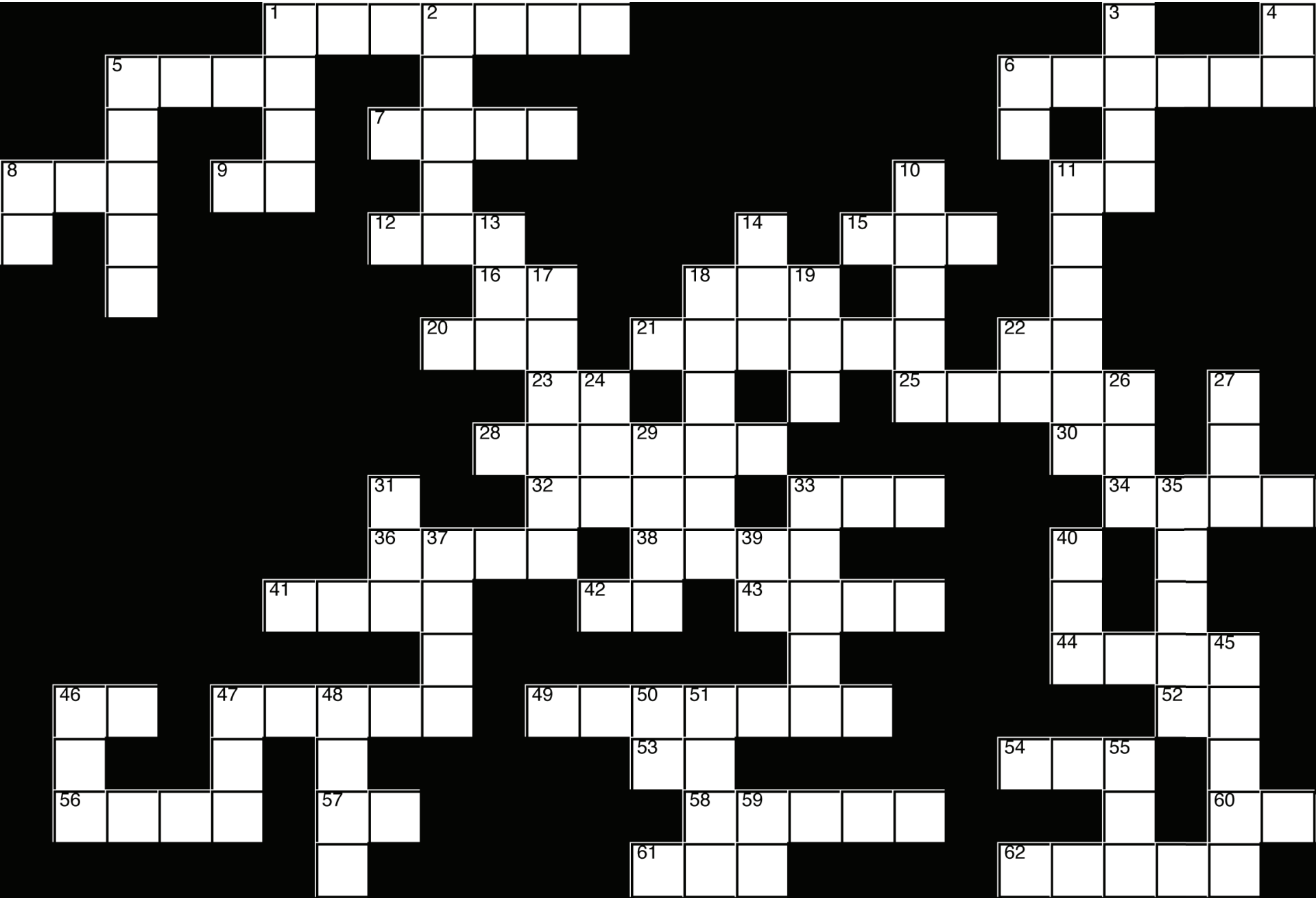
As a fire zodiac sign, water is not a good omen. Keep it low-key this next thunderstorm, or bad things may happen! (Don’t risk destroying your nicest Uggs in the rain!)

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Keep Sprite away from your computer, or else you will find yourself in a sticky situation! (Beverly Nguyen)

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Don’t ignore what your stomach is telling you. Peeps may not be a food group, but they are a perfect snack for any time of the year!



Across

Down

1. Nicki Minaj is starting to feel like this type of dragon

5. Of Black Swan and ‘That 70’s Show’ fame: ____ Kunis

6. The lamest geometric shape of all

7. Flemish painter: Jan van ____

8. One of two Rugrats twins

9. Popular Boston bubble tea spot (abbr.)

11. I’m not being serious, in chat lingo

12. Krusty the Clown sidekick (not Bob)

15. Skylar Gray needs this doctor

16. 1982 movie character in desperate need of a cellphone

18. Simpsons bartender

20. Today, in Spanish

21. South Dakota capital

22. ‘Imagination at Work’ company (abbr.)

23. London-based oil company involved in US oil spill

25. Not JC Penney, or Macy’s

28. Polish capital
30. Spanish tea

32. Fountain of Youth explorer

33. The coolest, trendiest body part

34. Geometric shape of St. Louis landmark

36. The Grand slam of show business; all four awards (abbr.)

38. Popular Kirkpatrick class (abbr.)

41. Discovered sea route to India

42. Has 11 protons (abbr.)

43. ‘The Queen of Salsa’: Celia ____

44. The eldest of the Weasley boys

46. Collect \$200 for passing this

47. The Giver author

49. Beyonce surname

52. This type of money leads to more problems

53. Not just I, and not just you

54. Fifth note of solfege

56. The sharp part of a fork

57. There’s no place like home after you’ve been here

58. BLS anti-genocide group
1. Bruce Springsteen single: ‘Dancing in the ____’

2. One of Malfoy’s henchmen

3. A hockey ball?

4. Chemical iron

5. Largest city in Milan; a misspelled Disney princess?

6. Has 21 protons (abbr.)

8. Adverb suffix

10. The Ram

11. Les Miserables police inspector

13. The Lion

14. ‘The Raven’ poet

17. Juliet’s cousin, slain by Juliet’s husband

18. Indulgent Pepperidge Farm cookie

19. An indoor rower, for short

22. Has 31 protons (abbr.)

24. Before suffix

26. A large body of saltwater
27. ‘Double Down’ producer

29. Living room piece

31. ‘Like a G6’ artist (abbr.)

33. A type of power, for cars

35. BLS’ latest drama production: The ____

37. Bikini Bottom’s resident snail

39. If I’m a Mac, you’re this

40. A type of drive, for computers

45. Home improvement and appliance store

46. A feeling of intuition generally comes from here

47. Well, that’s alright because I love the way you ____

48. Gryffindor Quidditch captain, in Harry’s first year

50. Painful onomatopoeia

51. A direction; a rap star

55. Confederate army general

59. Half a ballerina’s wardrobe

Sudokus

Easy

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		6	8	9				
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7	4				5		2	

Diabolical

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Spotlight Gabe Diop



FACEBOOK.COM

By Nick D'Agostino, I
Contributing Writer

The hallway shakes beneath your feet. You tremble as the big guy bounds around the corner. And then you hear him say it: “GET AT ME!” This, my friends, is how you know you have just met the famous Gabe Diop.

I first met Gabe in Ms. William’s eighth grade homeroom. I remember it like it was yesterday. On the first day of school, he wore a Kobe Bryant jersey, Kobe Bryant shorts and Kobe Bryant shoes. (A hint to all of you underclassmen who dream of big-shoe collections: Gabe’s tip was always to buy shoes a couple sizes too big and keep them for a couple of years.) We never spoke the entire year, probably because he was just too intimidated by me to talk at all, but ever since ninth grade we’ve had lunch together and he continues to give me gummy bears and Snack Well cookies, a representation of his incredible wealth and charity.

But you should already know the real reason that I am writing this spotlight. Gabe is a sports phenom. He has been playing Wolfpack football since eighth grade and was team captain this year. He is a driving force as a linebacker, commanding the defense, not unlike Brian Urlacher – except for one thing. Gabe is better. He crunches running backs, quarterbacks, and wideouts without regard for his own safety (he sports a few impressive scars, ladies. Just ask him, he’ll show ya). But despite his dominance in the gridiron, Gabe’s true talents lie within the hockey rink. Last year as goalie, Gabe led the Dual County League (DCL) in Goals Against Average (GAA), helping to lead the Wolfpack through a very strong season and into the second round of the state playoffs. He came back hungry this season and led the Wolfpack to second place in the DCLs with another sub-2.00 GAA. Now take into consideration that his GPA is over a 4.0. You start to get the idea of just how awesome Crazy Gabe really is.

Having devoted his life to being a star athlete and breaking all the young teachers’ hearts, Gabe is a pretty busy guy. Nevertheless, he is always there for you when you need him. He is kind and easy to talk to; he can always make me laugh with his infectious personality (when he’s not flirting with every girl and guy he sees). Gabe is a great kid to be around, and his enthusiasm for life is contagious; if you have spent more than five minutes with him, then you know it’s true. So make sure you get to know this legend before it’s too late. Gabe’s gotten a little too big for the halls of Boston Latin School. He is sure to be strutting his stuff around one of the Ivies in no time.

Gabriel. Crazy Gabe. Gabby Diopo. No matter what name you call him, my boy Gabe Diop will always be number one on the ice, and in our hearts.

SPORTS B's Heating up in Boston

By Mark Monday, I
Contributing Writer

New York. Ottawa. Calgary. Vancouver. Edmonton. Ottawa again. These cities apparently foretell the Boston Bruins' road to the Stanley Cup. After the Bruins six-game road winning streak, the team has been recognized as one of the top contenders for Lord Stanley's Cup. This winning streak has propelled Boston to a very impressive record going down the stretch to the playoffs. That record is fourth best in the entire league, second best in the Eastern Conference and first in their division.

All the pieces seem to be coming together for the Bruins this season. Milan Lucic and David Krejci are both having the best seasons of their careers. They each have more than 50 points. Lucic would probably have more points too, were it not for the 100-plus penalty minutes he has racked up so far. Patrice Bergeron, as always, is quietly having a stellar year, tied with Krejci for leading the Bruins in points. Enough cannot be said about newcomer Nathan Horton (43 points) and old-timer Mark Recchi (42 points). Horton was not well-known coming out of Florida, but he has certainly won over the fans up here in Boston. 43 year-old Recchi is playing more like a 23 year-old and he has turned into

an important player for Boston.

The Bruins, however, would not be where it is right now without its incredible defense and goal-tending. Boston has allowed the fewest goals in the league. All-Star defenseman Zdeno Chara has played in every game, racked up 32 points and 67 penalty minutes, and has done his job of being a huge body in between the opponents and his own net.



TSN/CH

CHARA WITH A LESS THAN LEGAL HIT ON THE CANADIAN'S MAX PACIORETTY

Fellow All-Star Tim Thomas has been mainly having one of the best seasons of his career. So far he has managed a 1.97 goals against average and a .939 save percentage. Both of those statistics are the best in the league by quite a large margin. Tuukka Rask, who was so good last year, has fallen off a bit this year and has

been definitely overshadowed by Thomas incredible skill. None of this, however, has stopped Rask from attaining a still respectable 2.66 goals against average and a .921 save percentage.

There is one thing I have yet to mention, something that can especially help to explain some of the Bruins recent successes\their mid-season pick-ups. The main players that Boston picked up are

defenseman Tomas Kaberle, center Rich Peverley and center Chris Kelly. These three guys have a combined 100 points already this season. That is an amazing amount of new" production for the Bruins. Kaberle, who has 39 points (three goals and 36 assists), knows how to move the puck around, and you would struggle to find a better defensive pairing than Chara and him on the ice at the same time.

The Bruins have set themselves up well this season. They have potential to greatly move forward and, as long as they can find a way to score enough goals (because they will certainly always have enough defense and goal-tending), they should find themselves playing well into the postseason.

Sumus Primi!

By George Lok, II & Isaac Buck, II
Contributing Writers

The 2011 Massachusetts Boys Division I State Swimming and Diving Championship was held at Blodgett Pool in Harvard on February 18, 2011. The “Sumus Primi” team immediately settled on a fine piece of land around the Blodgett Pool like a pack of wolves stationed on the mount ready for pouncing. And pounce they did.

Senior captains Nick Cameron, Mickael Chertov, and Mike Tomasini

at them with their distinct white swim gowns embossed with beautiful, vivid purple BLS insignias, envy was an understatement. The Wolfpack lined up immediately for the 200 yard medley relay. BLS freshman phenom Thomas Worthy dived into the water and was ready for his backstroke start. “Take your mark.” “Bang!” Thomas was busy feeding the other swimmers with bubbles, thus giving Junior Captain Isaac Buck a great lead going into the breaststroke leg. With each stroke, Isaac dashed like a boxer that delivered a heavy punch to the

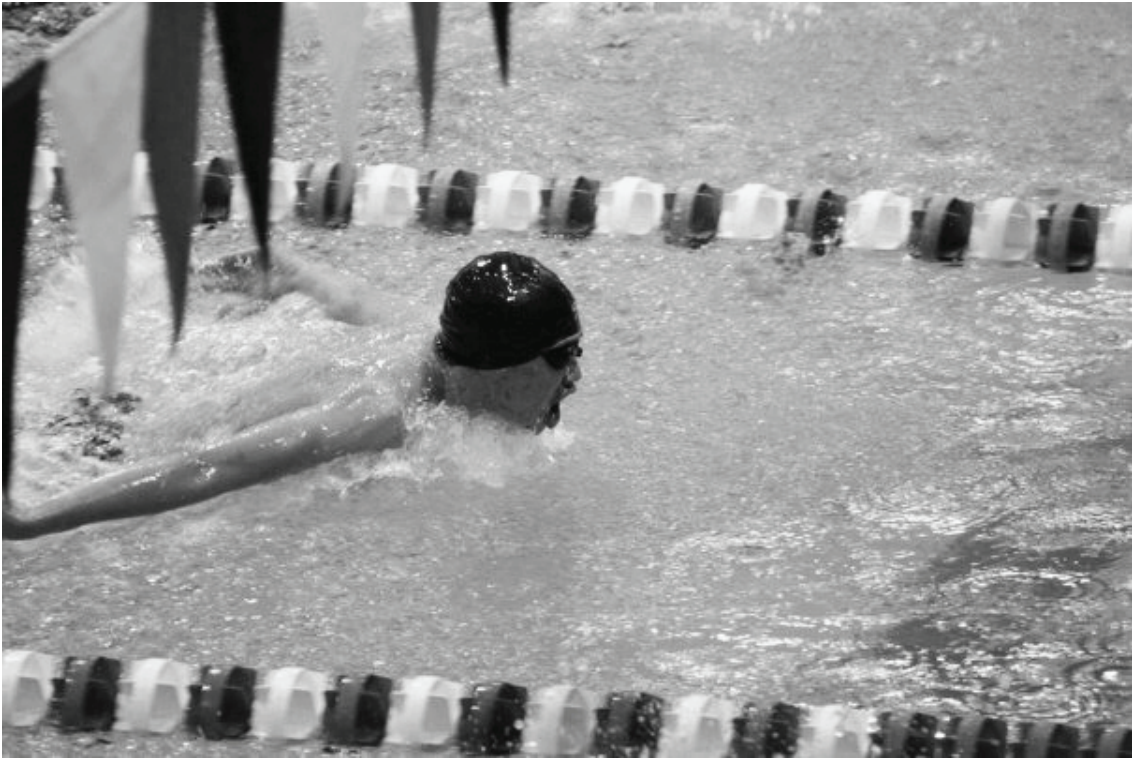
not out. Nick Cameron was needed to deliver the final blow and punch in time. When they looked up, the swimmers had their first win. Officials later told them they were first in their heat and 19th overall.

The 50 yard free event then came up. BLS Junior Captain George Lok spread his arms, kicked his legs, and massaged his thin, long thighs. He wiggled his goggles, pulled down his cap, jumped a few steps, he made himself ready on the platform. First came the dive. Then the turn. At the finish, a time flashed on the board. First

and the last place had differed by no more than half a second! Only a tidal wave bombarding a sea wall could rival the moment of the swimmers’ final touch. George finished fifth overall with a time of 22.14 seconds. In the following 100 yard fly event, he got ninth overall with a time of 55.05 seconds.

The 200 yard free relay event then followed. The Quattro, Thomas, Isaac, Nick and George, took their place. Months of training allowed them to have seamless transition in taking their turns. They secured a third in the heat and an 18th overall. Then, in the final event of the night, the famous foursome of Thomas Worthy, Mike

Tomasini, Jorge Rodriguez, and Mickael Chertov in 400 yard free relay event gave a huge final fanfare to a supercharged championship meet. The BLS Boys placed 15th overall among 28 schools. “Sumus Primi” really does ring true.



DANTE VALESQUEZ

GEORGE LOK LEADS THE PACK TO A SOLID STATE OUTING

were recognized by the MIAA officials for their continued participation for the BLS swim team throughout their high school careers. One by one, they were summoned to the honor circle around the edge of the pool. Looking

opponent; no one could take that in any way for 50 yards. His last punch released George Lok, who immediately began flying on water like an eagle diving from a lofty sky onto his prey. Though his prey was down, it was

SPORTS

March Madness Preview

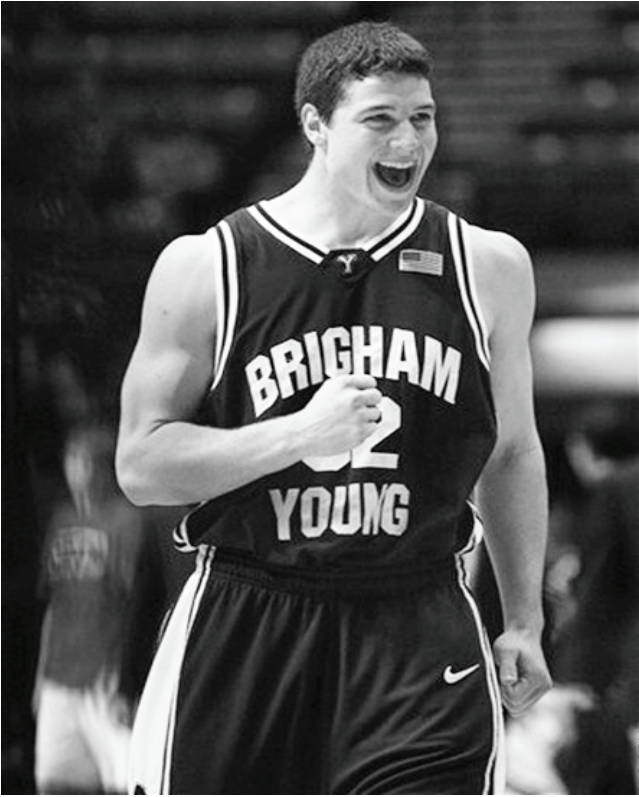
By **LUKE MCKINNON, I**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It's that time of the year again. You know what it is. It's time for March Madness, and in every way, stuff is going to be hot in Houston. Houston, of course, is where the men's championship is being held. The ladies, for those of you that are into that sort of thing, are playing in Indianapolis. But of course, by ladies I mean UConn, and by playing I mean winning their third straight NCAA championship. The men's champion, though, is never a sure thing. There are sure to be plenty of pools around town, so make sure you get your bracket in on time. There are no undefeated teams and the two biggest players according to pure win-loss comparison are Ohio State and Kansas. Defending champion Duke isn't ranked the highest but many speculate and plenty more are convinced that Nolan Smith will build on his family legacy and give an encore brilliant performance, eclipsing even last year's glory.

To some of us, the most important part of March Madness, the thing that makes it special, is the upsets, the Cinderella story you write out on your bracket. Sometimes what feels like genius turns out to be just tom-foolery. Good luck this year picking the Moorehead State Eagles to go big when chances are they aren't even sweet sixteen material. It may be the best decision you make all year. I'm not saying it won't be. The games are all technically away games, taking away a key advantage that college athletes enjoy. The number of teams in the tourney dwindles quickly. With every game being life or death, the mistakes that are made are magnified

and usually lethal. Also, unfortunately for the spectators, unless you religiously follow a team, chances are you don't know that much about who's doing what this season.

Luckily, though, March Madness is special. Its timing is perfect. The Super Bowl has come and gone, and the NBA and NHL playoffs are not yet upon us.



JIMMER FREDETTE LEADS BYU TO ANOTHER WIN

There is pretty much nothing else going on in sports. Don't worry, you have a small amount of time left to learn an entire season of drama, entire legacies in a matter of days. Going with your gut isn't going to serve you well, so I would

heartily recommend that with a number of analysts out there, your best bet is to perform extensive research, analysis, and coin-flipping to fill out your bracket before everything begins next Tuesday.

Here are a couple of important things you should expect: expect San Diego State. The Aztecs are this year's story, almost definitely elite eight. They just had their first thirty win season in their entire ninety-year history. You can expect them to be doing big things. Notre Dame is one of the top dogs but it has also lost to some rather weak but high scoring teams. They have the highest potential to suffer a dramatic upset as a first or second seed team.

The West is shaping up to be easily the most exciting section and the South-West is probably going to be the most predictable. But no matter what happens, you can be rest assured that we are going to all be able to spend the entire month of March in our man caves with a hand in our pants, flicking through the channels to keep up with every sweet, satisfying game. Now that CBS has finally decided to be generous and allow more than their network to broadcast at once, this March Madness may shape up to be the best that we have seen in years.

NBA Playoff Preview

By **SOPHIA SIRAGE, I**
STAFF WRITER

It is one thing to say that the stars aligned this season, considering that it seems they aligned on their own. Talent has taken the reins this season with some of the biggest names in the game, setting themselves up to be on superstar rosters. At this point, trades have affected all 30 teams in the National Basketball Association as they race to clinch a playoff spot against the best of the rest. While some believe it all was started after LeBron's "Decision", the general feeling is that more and more teams this year are hungrier than ever to place a ring next to their names.

This NBA season has actually been one of the most interesting to watch in recent memory; the shattering of records is just the icing on the cake. Ray Allen of the Boston Celtics passed Reggie Miller as the all-time leader in three-point field goals made during a Celtics-Lakers match-up on February 10 of this year. Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers entered the season 12th on the all-time scoring list and is now currently in sixth place. Then, you can't forget Kevin Love of the Minnesota Timberwolves, who has just taken away the title of most consecutive double-doubles from Moses Malone with 52 and counting after Wednesday's game with the Indiana Pacers. Some records, however, have not been proud moments. The Cleveland Cavaliers, first in the NBA last year, stumbled upon a 24-game losing



JEFF GREEN GETS IT DONE

ing streak, while the Miami Heat's Chris Bosh went 1-for-18 in a game against the Chicago Bulls.

NBA Playoffs are now just about a month away, with the first games starting April 16. Looking at some of the top teams in the East and West, predictions have ranged more for the Eastern Conference over the Western. Following the All-Star Break, Kobe and his Lakers have shown why they are a force to be reckoned with in the West, as they continue an eight-game winning streak that included defeating one of the biggest competitions they have - the San Antonio Spurs. The Spurs have managed to somehow have the best

record in the NBA thus far, but, with what can be said to be bipolar performances in some recent stretches, no one is sure of how to feel about them. With the number two spot, I suppose Dirk Nowitzki and his Dallas Mavericks are worth noting, but, with shaky performances, it has been hard for fans to invest in them ever since the major fail during the '06 Finals with the Miami Heat. Then, of course, there is the Oklahoma Thunder, who, with newly acquired Kendrick Perkins and Nazr Mohammed, have added the ability for the Thunder to go big and lash out rebounds. With Kevin Durant and elite point guard Russell Westbrook having consistent games, I predict that the Western Conference will result in a Thunder-Lakers match up.

Then there is the Eastern Conference, which promises to have potential

for some historic playoff series. If the playoffs were to start today, the Indiana Pacers would not be anything out of the ordinary for the first-seeded Boston Celtics. The Celtics, by the time the playoffs start, will have created chemistry with new teammates Jeff Green, Nenad Krstic and Carlos Arroyo. The Philadelphia 76ers are not a team to sleep on, because, even with the seventh spot, Doug Collins has been able to have his players buy into his system of playing while Andre Iguodala has managed back-to-back triple-double performances to compliment Thaddeus Young's rising stats. The Chicago Bulls, now second in the East, would most likely continue putting on stellar performances under Derrick Rose, the likely MVP of this season. The New York Knicks, currently sixth, would go up against the Miami Heat (aka the "Cryami Heat"), but both teams haven't exactly shown where they stand. Amar'e Stoudemire and the Knicks have been 4-3 since acquiring Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups, while the Heat just lost five straight games. Lastly, the Orlando Magic and the Atlanta Hawks have not been given as much attention, but the Magic is most definitely going to be a breakout team with the powerful Dwight Howard and the deep bench it has.

As a superstitious Celtics fan, I'm not going to say who I think will end up competing in the Eastern Conference Finals. I do think it would be refreshing for another team to represent the West in the NBA Finals, and I am sure whoever ends up on top in the East will have deserved it. Personally though, I'm all for a Celtics-Lakers Finals. It's only fitting that the most decorated team in the NBA raise another banner while getting payback for last year.

Spotlight

Jake Urso



By **BRIAN MYLETT, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Urso, the Urs kid, Urs bacalaca slingshot, the Ursinator. Whatever you know him as, Jake Urso is known best as a classified stud. I was once confronted by a student from Brooklyn Latin School asking me if I could show her who Jake Urso was. The girl had heard of the legend, even in a different state.

What many people don't know is that Jake and I used to be rivals who didn't like each other. When I came to Boston Latin, Jake walked into my Latin class on the first day of school with a pink polo on and was rocking pink aviators. If you had told me he would soon become my best friend, I would have laughed at you. But somehow, that look worked for Jake.

I hoped to make a lot of jokes while writing this. However, I soon found that there was no time for joking in this spotlight because if I want to talk about all of his athletic contributions, I simply wouldn't have any room. Jake is a three sport athlete, two sport captain, and was a DCL all star in hockey his junior year. He can do ridiculous things with a basketball and is a great swimmer (which I found out when he chose to jump into a river on one of the most prestigious golf courses in Massachusetts because he simply "thought he spotted a mermaid"). But if you ask me, his best quality is that Jake takes more pride in watching his teammates succeed rather than watching himself succeed. I have seen Jake happier for his teammates when things are going well than he is when he is scoring goals and sinking putts. If you wondered why he was surrounded by many ladies this year in the stands at hockey games, it's because he broke his kneecap giving 110% in practice when he blocked a hard shot from a teammate. When all of the doctors said that he would not recover in time to play another high school hockey game, Jake proved everyone (especially me) wrong and came back for the state tournament, beating the odds.

Jake is a comedian, leader, athlete, and somewhat of a scholar (sorry, Jake, I didn't want to lie too much). But most importantly, Jake Urso is a great kid, and the best friend anyone could have. I know that if I ever needed to, I could call Urso, and he and his uncle Scotty would be there in a heartbeat. I have never heard someone tell so many stories about their uncle, but if you ever get the chance to meet Jake's uncle, I'm sure you would understand why. I am glad to call Jake Urso my best friend.

One last thing, Jake wants to be asked to prom so anyone interested in going with him should just ask. It would make his day.

Boys Basketball Gets It Done

By **DEVIN KIRBY, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

Last year, the boys' basketball team finished with a 2-20 record and for the first time in eight dominant seasons missed the state tournament. This year, the boys had a heroic turnaround, finishing with an 11-12 record. Forward and co-captain Tosin Ajewole (I) was an All-Star for the second straight year. More importantly, though, Boston Latin School basketball was once again in the state tourney.

It was a good albeit not great season for the Wolfpack this year. "We beat all the teams we were supposed to beat," head coach Brendan Smith told the team one day, "We're not losing to any chump teams." Looking at the other teams in the Dual County League Large, it's hard to argue that point. Acton-Boxborough, which beat the Wolfpack at home by merely four points, is ranked fifth in the state. Lincoln-Sudbury is 11th. Westford is 20th. Latin? 47th. Who could have expected that we would come away with an 11-12 record ranked 47th in a schedule

against mostly top-20 teams, especially after a 2-20 trainwreck of a season? As Kevin Garnett said in 2008, "Anything is possible."

After a disappointing loss to Boston Latin Academy in its last regular-season game, Latin failed to clinch home court for a preliminary game against Billerica. The winner of this game would have clinched the bottom seed in the tournament, with the dubious honor of playing 1st-seeded 19-1 St. John's Prep in Danvers. Billerica came out hot, finishing the 1st quarter with a 20-2 run, including three 3-pointers by their starting guard, who had seven in the game, and a half-court shot by their captain at the buzzer. The Wolfpack could never really close that gap, and, even when they were close, Billerica responded with runs like a 10-0 frenzy to start the 4th quarter. BLS lost 62-45. "They just shot the lights out," Coach Smith said after the game. No one else really wanted to talk about it.

It was a disappointing end to a season of which the team could be proud. There were some disappointments—the



MATT KEHOE GETTIN' SOME AIR

BLA game, letting AB slip away in the final minutes at home—but overall, more ups than downs. Led on the defensive end by Ajewole and offensively by dynamic guard Jack Duggan (II), the Wolfpack formed an identity has a snub-nosed defensive team with enough athleticism

to make plays on both ends, living up to Latin's legacy of intense, gritty and passionate play. As a cast of seniors leave—super-athletic forward and co-captain Khaleel Abdul-Jabbaar (I), three-point marksman guard and co-captain Matt Kehoe (I), all-around scorer Cam Bullard (I), rebounding virtuoso Leo Stella (I), myself (I) and Ajewole—the team looks forward to continued success behind young talent like Duggan and wingman Miles Wright (III), who both enjoyed 200+ point seasons. Also on the rise are breakout guards James "The Juice" Adams (II), who moved into a starting role this year, and Celio Araujo (IV), who played well off the bench in big games, hitting clutch shots against Bedford and Newton South with developing big man Khari "Chief" Thompson (III), showing his potential late this season as a force on the block.

This year, Latin had the misfortune of exiting early. Next year is a new year, a new season and a new team, and one that, if this season was any indication, has a very, very high ceiling.

Spring Training Report: Great Expectations

By **JOHN CLIFFORD, I**
STAFF WRITER

Spring training is finally here, and New England sports fans can finally forget about the Patriots's loss to the Jets in the playoffs. The new and improved Boston Red Sox are back and look to bounce back from a disappointing 2010 season. In 2010, we saw season-ending injuries to Dustin Pedroia, Kevin Youkilis and Jacoby Ellsbury and disappointing seasons by every pitcher not named Jon Lester or Clay Bucholtz. The Red Sox missed the playoffs for the first time since 2006 and faced an uncertain future with key free agents such as Victor Martinez and Adrian Beltre. The off-season would start off shaky, but Theo Epstein and other members of the Red Sox front office made decisions which would please Red Sox Nation.

Going into the off-season, Victor Martinez seemed like the Red Sox's top priority. Captain Jason Varitek would be 39 years old for the next season and back up, Jarrod Saltalamacchia, has yet to prove himself as an everyday catcher. Martinez put up good numbers in his year and a half playing for the Red Sox and worked well with the pitching staff. The Red Sox, however, were skeptical of signing him to a long term contract because of his age. The team felt that he would not be able to catch everyday for four straight years. Eventually, he would have to move to first base or designated hitter, positions which

are held by Kevin Youkilis and David Ortiz, respectively. There would be no truth to any of these options as Martinez signed

highly touted pitcher Casey Kelly. Kelly was a prospect whom Epstein was keen on giving up, but Epstein realized the



THE LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE RED SOX ROSTER

a four-year 52-million dollar contract with the Detroit Tigers.

Although Red Sox Nation was disappointed with Martinez, Theo Epstein wasted no time in pleasing his fans. All throughout the 2010 season, the Red Sox were in discussions about attempting to acquire San Diego Padres's first baseman Adrian Gonzalez. No deal could be reached until the off-season when the Red Sox would acquire Gonzalez in exchange for three prospects including

opportunity to acquire Gonzalez could not be passed up. Playing for the Padres for four years, "Gonzo" hit 168 home runs while playing his home games at Petco Park, a top pitchers' ballpark in baseball. Coming to the Red Sox at 28 years old and playing his home games at Fenway Park should help "Gonzo" produce even more than he did with the Padres.

Now that Adrian Gonzalez has joined the Red Sox, he will play first base.

Kevin Youkilis will shift from first base back to third base, the position at which he started his career, and Adrian Beltre will become the odd man out. Beltre, who had been known for his defense, was the top offensive player for the Red Sox in 2010 while still playing good defense. Beltre's contract, however, was only for one year, and many believed he performed that well in order to receive a long term contract from the Texas Rangers. Losing Beltre would not hurt the team, but signing Carl Crawford would help. Crawford provides great speed, defense and offense. With Crawford in left field and Jacoby Ellsbury in center field, the Red Sox will have one of the fastest outfields in baseball history.

In order for the Red Sox to have a deep playoff run this year, they will need to stay healthy. Last year too many key players were hurt, and they could not recover from their injuries. Also, last year's team had the pitching and defense approach. Josh Beckett and John Lackey both need to prove that they are worth their large contracts. Expect Jonathan Papelbon to bounce back from a disappointing 2010 season and pitch well. In the final year of his contract, Papelbon is pitching for a long term deal in a new city. With Daniel Bard and Bobby Jenks under contract past this year, it is highly unlikely that the Red Sox would re-sign Papelbon. This year's team has a lot of potential, and it will be fun to watch the season play out.

GREATNESS ON ICE

Continued from page 1

He lit the lamp more often than anyone else on the team, potting more than thirty goals over the course of the season. But this is hockey. No matter how good one kid is, the whole team needs to function as a unified, cohesive unit in order to win consistently. This was possible because of senior captain Brian Mylett (I), who led the team coming out of the gate and never looked back. His leadership was evident throughout the season, both on and off the ice; his passion and drive motivated everyone else to care just as much as he did. And, of course, not enough can be said about everybody's hero, star goalie Gabe Diop. There is no doubt that his pad-stacks and glove saves were some of the main reasons the Wolfpack got where they did this season.



GABE DIOP MAKES A DESPERATION SAVE

That is not to say the team did not face its own set of difficulties. From the start, they were beset by injuries. Forwards Chris Dullea (III) and Jake Urso (I), as well as top defensive pair Brian Mylett (I) and Pat Murray (II) succumbed to injury at some point in the season. CJ and

team had to fight on. So fight they did.

The boys entered the tournament as the number three seed overall, having ended the season with a 14-3-3 record and second place in the Dual County League/Merrimack Valley Conference. They were

Urso would work their way back to play by the final games, but their dominating defensemen never returned. The team had to persevere without them which was not an easy task. But the state tournament had at long last arrived, and the

allowed to bypass the first round and head straight into a match-up against Triton Regional High School. A convincing 6-2 victory brought them to the quarterfinals of the tournament, a rematch against rival Tewksbury, the only team higher ranked than them in their conference. There were no celis to be had here.

The boys were defeated 1-0, never able to maintain a strong offensive presence for long enough to win. Despite numerous pad stacks from Diop and a couple dangles from Lynchy, the Wolfpack went home unsatisfied once again. There should be, however, nothing but pride and admiration for the success they have brought to Boston Latin School. People always say that BLS is not a school for sports. But trust me, if you watch these kids play, you will never think that again.